

Preliminary Itinerary: USCGC Basswood  
SEPTEMBER 1964

ACTION	ISLAND	DATE	TIME	MILES	HOURS	0445
Depart	Midway	16	0600	90	8	
Arrive	Pearl Hermes	16	1400			
Depart	Pearl Hermes	17	1600	190	14	
Arrive	Sisianski	18	0700			
Depart	Sisianski	19	0700	115	10	
Arrive	Japan	19	1700			
Depart	Japan	20	1700	210	20	
Arrive	Cond. Pinn.	21	1500			
Depart	Cond. Pinn.	21	1900	210	18	
Arrive	Necher	22	1300			
Depart	Necher	23	1400	160	16	
Arrive	Niboa	24	0600			
Depart	Niboa	26	0800	240	23	
Arrive	French Frig.	27	0800			

USCGC Basswood Officer Staff

C.O. D.D. Davidson, Cdr.  
X.O. T.P. Shaffar, Lt.  
OPS. G.K. Eustis, Ens.  
COM. Yeather, Ens.

Lt. Webster (WEB) was to be our guide on Pearl and Hermes Reef, and other boat landings.

FIELD NOTES

RONALD L. WALKER

1500

1645

Southwest Island (cont) (PEARL/HERMES)

Established new photostation at Navy Marker  
at Southwest end of Island

Station A-4

- #1 To campsite sign
- #2 To Tower
- #3 To Coral ledge center

Cleaned all three signs of guano, right hand  
sign at landing hoop off post, in bad shape  
Tagged turtles after dark - most seen on lagoon  
side of island. Total of 32 turtles on island,  
<sup>19</sup>/<sub>9</sub> of which were tagged and measured  
thruly:

BAND #	SEX	DIMENSIONS INCHES	COMMENTS
1055	♂	32 X 29	Rt. flip r/cut
1056	♂	34 $\frac{1}{2}$ X 32	
1057	♀	34 X 34	
1058	♂	35 $\frac{1}{2}$ X 33 $\frac{1}{2}$	
1059	♀	34 X 36	
1060	♀	31 $\frac{1}{2}$ X 34	
1061	♂	32 $\frac{1}{2}$ X 36 $\frac{1}{2}$	
1062	♀	37 X 39	
1063	♀	34 $\frac{1}{2}$ X 33	
1065	♀	32 X 31 $\frac{1}{2}$	
1066	♀	33 X 35 $\frac{1}{2}$	
1067	♀	35 $\frac{1}{2}$ X 37	
1068	♀	35 X 37 $\frac{1}{2}$	
1069	♀	23 X 25	
1070	♀	29 X 30 $\frac{3}{4}$	black shell

about 24"  
turtles about  
brown, other  
no eggs seen  
up.

1 local

one ♀ was  
p. redish  
can algae.

out platter  
(♀)

high

BAND #	SEX	DIMENSIONS INCHES	COMMENTS
--------	-----	----------------------	----------

1071	♀	33 X 34 1/2	
1072	♀	30 X 31 1/2	
1073	♂	33 1/2 X 36	
1074	♀	33 X 33 1/2	

2200 Many turtle nests on beach, some tracks 30 yards long. Dug up one site, no eggs seen. Banded Wedge-tailed shearwaters and Bonin's Petrels after turtle expedition (300 W.T. banded by Abert, Kuidler, Walker.) After several hours of mechanically banding birds, RW banded huge frigate bird to E.K. to band, and as he jokingly began to band its toe-nail, bird defecated large mass down E.K.'s front. Attempted to net Bristle Thighed Curlew, but bright night prevented same.

2400 boiled coffee and goodies, retired for night. During night, Frigates perched near camp on posts put up with sheet to attract insects, seals came out of water and jostled sleeping forms on beach. One frigate bird perched on thin light pole erected on pipe platform, obliterated light. Kept a flashing light (red) on beach on SW corner of island so ship would know when it slipped its anchor.

Lagoon waters gorgeous - deep blue deep waters, powder blue where sand covered bottom and golden yellow where coral heads grew. Saw large 7 foot ray, no sharks.

Red-tailed Tropic (cont.)

Locals seen - 4  
 Estimated population -  
 30 to 40

Grey-backed Tern

6+ immatures  
 Est. total - 20-25

Wedge-tailed Shearwater

2000 + young  
 Est. Total - 7000-8000

Common Noddy

Mostly locals  
 3500-4000 young  
 Est. Total - 12 000 to  
 15 000

Yariv Tern

Eggs to flying immature  
 300-400 total est.

Sooty Tern

Estimated total based on  
 aerial sightings 10-20

Golden Plover

5 seen

Ruddy Turnstone

50-75 estimated

Nihoa Birch

Estimated total - 4000-5000

## NIHOA

Two turtles were seen off south coast of island; one about 24 inches round and another approx. 36 inches round. One seal was noted in the surf in East palm gulch bay. No sharks were seen from the island, but the ship's crew reported several circling the ship as it lay anchored.

Counted seals: WHALE/SKATE, FR SHOALS  
 2<sup>nd</sup> seen Two adult males were moulting

Unclassified Adults	6
Adult males	8
Adult females	3
Subadult males	1
Subadult females	2
Unclassified Subadults	3
Unclassified pups	1

1245 Departed Whale-Skate island

1030 Arrived on Trig island. Made seal census around beach as follows:

Unclassified adults	1
Adult males	5
Adult females	5

<u>Blue-faced Boobies</u>	21 immatures, (local), 2 adults	
<u>Red-footed Boobies</u>	2 adults, 2 immatures	11:00
<u>Common Noddies</u>	estimated 300	1200
<u>White-tailed Shearwater</u>	estimated 300	
<u>Ruddy Turnstones</u>	45	
<u>Golden Plover</u>	3	

Counted 20 turtle pits. Saw total of 5 adult turtles, banded three of them:

# 1075 -	♀	33 1/2 X 30
# 1076 -	♂	24 1/2 X 28
# 1077 -	♀	32 3/4 X 34 1/2

FIELD NOTES  
RONALD L. WALKER

MARCH - 1965

63

Thursday

March 11, 1965

1430

Drove to Sand Island Coast Guard Base, loaded gear and bodies aboard USCG Cutter Blackhaw. Those in scientific party:

Eugene Knidler

U.S.F.W.S.

Ron Walker

Hawaii Fish and Game

Chandler Robbins

U.S.F.W.S.

Winthrop Banker

Smithsonian Mus.

Met Executive Officer, and junior officers, got situated in quarters according to rank. Knidler and Banker according to protocols, bunked with and ate with officers; Walker and Robbins with the crew, below decks. RW and CR were invited to mess with the Chief Petty Officers, so were served in style.

1615

Got underway and "sailed" from Honolulu Harbor, taking pictures on flying bridge of party-mates with Diamond Head in background. (Walker slammed it up as usual with pipe in profile etc) Cutter did not head directly for Kauai, but rather went off Diamond Head to test its equipment. Captain of Blackhaw Lt. Commander Roseman. Watched lights of Honolulu slip away, saw terrible movie "Dumbo" for a while, read some "Campitloggers" and retired. Took usual diamamine and experienced no sickness.

2400

Thought of last experience with CC before drifting off to sleep.

NECKER 3/15/65

TURTLES	# 1	36 X 32	
	# 2	32 X 30	
	# 3	36 X 31	
	# 4	31 X 31	
	# 5	34 X 30	(female)

Seals: one adult male  
 one adult female  
 one yearling female  
 four unclassified adults

All seals and turtles swam in water, but turned around in water, about half came back on landing after people departed. RW took pictures from ledge on Northwest Cape of seals, turtles in pool. Whole gang decided to take movies, pictures on NW cape before counting bird pops. Fantastic colony of Sooty Terns on NW cape - in some areas - chicks or eggs every two feet. 50% egg 50% chicks. Greybacked terns seemed almost as numerous. Couldn't find blue-grey noddies, so after a few shots of Greybacks on eggs, told EK to walk to the other end of the island and begin bird counting of all species, work back till I met the rest of party. Stopped on summit peak and watched 30 or 40 dark shapes moving in circles underwater over sandy portion of Shark bay. Saw two seals and one turtle surface, but suspect "sheper" were sharks feeding. Took pictures of frigate colony, picked *Sesuvium flourens* for CC. Finally found cooperatives Blue Grey Noddy

Huge seaman named Bassich (6'-6", 235 lb) helped us turn turtles. Actually followed a hundred-pounder into water getting salt water and sand all over self, flipped it over and dragged it bodily into shore by the flipper, only to find out it was already tagged. Turtle data: Tagged two -

PEARL  
HERMES

# 1101 ♀ 34 X 31 1/2 inches

# 1102 ♂ 34 3/4 X 34 1/2 inches

Saw two others that were missed.

Recovered one -

# 1095 ♂ 36 1/2 X 34 3/4 inches

"Glassball Yever" and "Pearl Shellitis" list hard, sometimes to the detriment of the animal surveys. Few big balls, but lots of bottles and shells and sea urchins. Island quite green, shallow ponds about 1/3 full of water. Wind had blown plywood off tower and high seas eroded Southwest end many markers, much of sand bank. Signs were in good shape, but replaced post and sign on right hand side of NW landing. Common noddies were few, but many on eggs. Wedgetail Shearwaters were common in burrows and ~~the~~ Sooty Storm Petrels were discovered under boards near tower. Collected one adult for mounting. This bird very high string - easily gave up ghost when captured. Checked Ironwood plantation, none had survived. Matted plant was taking over center of island, crowding back all other plants - could barely see goosey heads poking above flower stalks. Made camp, pitched tent using driftwood because we had for-



MARCH-APRIL 1966

93  
RONALD L. WALKER

Thursday (Honolulu) March 17, 1966

0800

Boarded USCG cutter Buttonwood. Found quarters and stowed gear. Those in wild life party:

- |                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Eugene Kiedler    | U.S.F.W.S.      |
| Ron Walker        | Haw. Wild Game  |
| Dr. Andrew Berger | Univ. of Hawaii |
| Nelson Rice       | Haw. Wild Game  |

Kiedler, Walker bunked with officious Rice in sickbay, Dr. Berger with chiefs. EK decided to take pictures of ship from dock, gang-plank half-way up: Kiedler had to leap aboard on half-drawn ramp. Sailors watched in wild disgust.

0905

Left pier, underway for Nihoa, picked up small boat in harbor. Monie #1, Saguame #1. Nelson Rice walking up gangplank of Buttonwood. M-1-2 U.S.C.G. Mellow entering Hono Harbor. Noticed artificial cloud formed by cans burning at Ewa - heat from fire causes moisture to condense at high altitude forming white "cap" on top of dirty smoke cloud.

0925

Cleared harbor. 20 or 30 porpoise seen paralleling ship at distance feeding on fish. Saw small warbler jump. Small Coast Guard crash boat took pictures of Buttonwood as it steamed along just outside of harbor

(Commanding officer of Buttonwood Dan Moriarity)

es. None found  
 of side view -  
 actions on  
 water masses  
 with house.

and 22, 1966

of more turtles  
 probably decomposed  
 one 15 inches,  
 stated they  
 to no avail.  
 accidentally  
 where to  
 in front  
 out the  
 ided to  
 come back  
 large wooden  
 island for  
 at, E.K and  
 come on second  
 Trig Island.  
 stly made

TAL - 14

(more frequent)?

12 turtles, turned over seven while two  
 coast guards watched. Got smashed on  
 right forearm by flipper - drew blood. A  
 good percentage turned for two out of slope  
 wildlifous. Turtle data:

#	Band	Sex	Length	Width
1	90	♂	34" X	30 1/2"
2	91	♀	36 X	34
3	92	♂	32 X	28
4	93	♂	34 X	32
5	94	♂	36 X	32
6	96	♀	36 X	33 1/2
7	97	♀	33 1/2 X	31

F.F.S.  
 (TRIG)

\* [ previously banded # 52 saw  
 and read band, but tag came off  
 in process of dragging turtle up  
 beach

Tag # 89 damaged in application, discarded  
 Tag # 95 " " " "

Marked all seals with a fluorescent  
Carex-Red X on the carapace, applied  
 with spray can, allowed to dry, then  
 sprayed with a sealer. Turtles with  
 algae-slime on back - paint washed off  
 when they entered sea - others retained  
 color OK. After wrestling with turtle and  
 wearing them (and us) down, was able  
 to hold them long enough for paint  
 to dry by laying right flipper over  
 left thigh, hold it down with both hands.

0830 Sighted Southeast Island - Pearls and Hermes  
 0945 at 8:30 AM and anchored. On Southeast Is.  
 1055 at 10:55, 8 turtles on beach, turned 5. One  
 previously tagged turtle got away. Census seals  
 immediately:

- 1 dead yearling
- 2 adult males
- 2 adult females
- 3 male subadults
- 8 female subadults
- 2 unclassified subadults

Messerschmidia plant flourishing at landing.  
Solanum OK, Enchura, Lepidium had died back,  
 is now recovering, Eragrostis, Scorola,  
Boerhavia, Sicyos, Trinobulus, Portulaca OK  
 Noted 12 P.T. Tropic bird in air at one time.  
 Frigate were on eggs, Blue-faced boobies were  
 mostly on eggs, found one hatching. 18 B.F. Booby  
 nests seen. No ironwoods were found at all.  
 Two Sooty storm petrel chicks were found  
 under plywood - downy - several weeks old.

## SE. ISLAND TURTLE DATA:

#	Sex	Length	Width	Tag #
1	♂	35 1/2	35	101
2	♀	28 1/2	27	102
3	♂	41 1/2	37	103
4	♀	32	30 1/2	104
5	♀	39	38	105
6	♀	39	37	106
* 7	♀	34 1/2	31	107
8	♀	37 1/2	36	108
9	♂	35	32	109

Hermes  
 least 20  
 T. One  
 several seals

\* night front flipper  $\frac{1}{2}$  bitten off. All turtles were marked with a ~~yellow~~ white circle "O" applied with a spray can. Turtles did not attempt to bite, but do hiss and open mouth when hit on the head. Under stress "tears" very apparent. Noticed Sootys were beginning to land. Took photostation pictures S.E. Islet, Pearl-Hermes

A2 - 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

A1 - 1, 2, 3, 4

A4 - 1, 2, 3 (1 hollow Tib.)

A3 - 1, 2, 3, 4 (at landing)

and  
 died back  
 ula,  
 ulaca OK  
 terms.  
 babies were  
 8 B.F. Booby  
 at all.  
 was found  
 the old.

As we were half-way through getting refuge sign together, RW told EK that they had put the "Lisianski" sign in the "Pearl and Hermes" box. Kinkler believed hoax - APRIL FOOL! Albatross chicks seemed more mature than those on previous islands. 20 or 30 Ruddy turnstones were seen.

1500 Left Southeast Island, returned to Buttonwood.

1600 Sat down on sea chest to take off boots. Opened sea chest. Pressure of butt had depressed top of shaving cream can - filled box with foam. Spent rest half hour cleaning off supplies. Lobster salad for dinner. Caned for fuchsia 44 OK.

Anchor which broke, much struggling by crew before we could weigh anchor. Saw "Seven

2230 Faces of Dr. Lao in evening. Retired.

Tag #  
 101  
 102  
 103  
 104  
 105  
 106  
 107  
 108  
 109

144

SEPTEMBER 1966 (RONALD L. WALKER)

Thursday

September 8, 1966

- 1605 Left Sand Island Coast Guard Station aboard U.S.  
 1615 Coast Guard Cutter Ironwood. Cleared Harbor entrance. Commanding officer, Cdr. C. S. Nielsen, Executive Officer, Lockwood. Had briefing by Captain on run of ship etc. Those in scientific party:

Eugene Kridler, Wildlife Administrator USFWS

Ronald Walker, Wildlife Biologist, State F-G

Carl Kenyon, Marine Mammalogist USFWS

Dr. Sherwin Carlquist, Plant Anatomist, Claremont

Namen Doll, Photographer, Star Bulletin

- 1840 Passed Offshore Port Allen, Kauai. Spent evening, free hours writing up notes in journal of previous (March 1966) trip. Word was received that the crew was to service the light on Lohoe Rock off Nihoa tomorrow. Bunked in chief's quarters (only air conditioned space other than refrigerator on ship) Shared space with Chief Machinist with a ridiculous laugh. Saw movie "It's Never Too Late"
- 2330 Retired afterwards.

Friday

September 9, 1966

- 0630 Awake before dawn - saw rosey fingers of dawn out porthole next to bunk, also outline of Lohoe Island. Got up in casual clothes and went on deck to discover small boat being lowered for trip to Lohoe. Rumbled back to cabin, grabbed camera but forgot pen and paper, requested to go ashore. No room available for S.C. and C.K. who wanted to make trip also.

- apart. Very few spoiled or rotten eggs. A few recent (fresh) eggs were being eaten by crabs, 20 or 30 feet from ocean. A high percentage of Common Noddies had successful young - very low mortality. Two immature tropic birds, almost full grown under ledge on Shark Bay side of NW cape. Returned to camp for Polaroid camera, back to cape for flash pictures. Took several of Blue Grey Noddies, Fairy Terns and Common Noddies. Had to use "borens" flash to prevent White Tern from washing out. Returned to bedsites near isthmus. Went to sleep on ledge with roof 6 inches from nose, foot from stomach, 30 feet to sunf below.
- 2300
- 2345

Sunday

September 11, 1966

- 0630 Up at daybreak, decided to split party, EK and RW to complete sign, rest to wander around for pictures. Measured turtles on Shark Bay ledge first:

All females

32	X	30
31	X	32
35 1/2	X	32
35	X	32
33	X	32

NECKER

- 0800 Connected base of large refuge sign, mostly sand and gravel, ran out of cement. Finally completed job and decided to hike over to Baul cave where Emory of Bishop Museum and team had discovered leftovers from ancient Hawaiian

- 0800 Shoals, arrived in vicinity Tern Island around breakfast time. Spent morning loading gear in boat, liding, over time while boys were worked.
- 1330 Left for Tern island in wooden boat, towing rubber boat, intending to go to Trig island. Some delay on Tern making amenities with C.O, crew, waiting for help on loading. Station in deplorable condition. Morale very low as usual, but "Playboy" Club was in disrepair, even quarters and mess hall in disorder.
- 1545 Arrived on Trig Island, EK and RW split with KK, SC made seal census in opposite directions. Also tagged turtles:

# 1. Banded # 78 ♀ female. Growth on eye, under left front flipper, armpit, under tail. Measured by 31 X 32.  
This was a return.

# 2.

Not banded. Growth between carapace, right rear leg, around left eye.  
Measured 36 X 35 ♂  
Tagged # 114

Noted one pintail duck flying past island, 25 Ruddy turnstones on beaches. Attempted to immobilize seals using a polyethylene tarpaulin stretch between two pieces of pipe:



Tuesday

September 13, 1966

0830

Left ship for Tom island towing rubber boat

0930

for trip to Whale and Skato island, Spent morning making routine biological survey. Noddy chicks in downy stage. 12 common noddies in air. Six adult Blue faced Boobies. Scaevola green and healthy. One side of island (towards La Perouse Pinnacle) was washing away as evidenced by tufts and clumps of grass seen floating in water around island.

(Eragrostia) Three adult Frigate birds seen flying over island. A few flying immatures Blue-faced Boobies. Shorebirds - one each of Sanderling, Plover, tattler. One red-footed Booby downy young, fully feathered seen.

Seals - 2 unclassified adults, 6 unclassified subadults, one adult ♀, 3 adult ♂♂, 3 subadult ♀♀, 8 subadult ♂♂. Left Whale.

1330

Skato and arrived on Eastern Island an hour later. Easy going but slow in lagoon with rubbery boat. Checked for turtles, but saw none - however many turtle nests both trees and holes found particularly on Tom Island side. (North). Made a plot of trails leading between nests. (Page 159) Banded four seals using plastic cloth stretched between conduits, which worked well on pups and small yearlings.

Seals were covered from caudal peduncle and over head, leaving tail free for banding. (KK and EK)

Vegetation on island markedly less vigorous than last trip - much open space between Boerhaavia, Tribulus, which predominated. Chenopodium

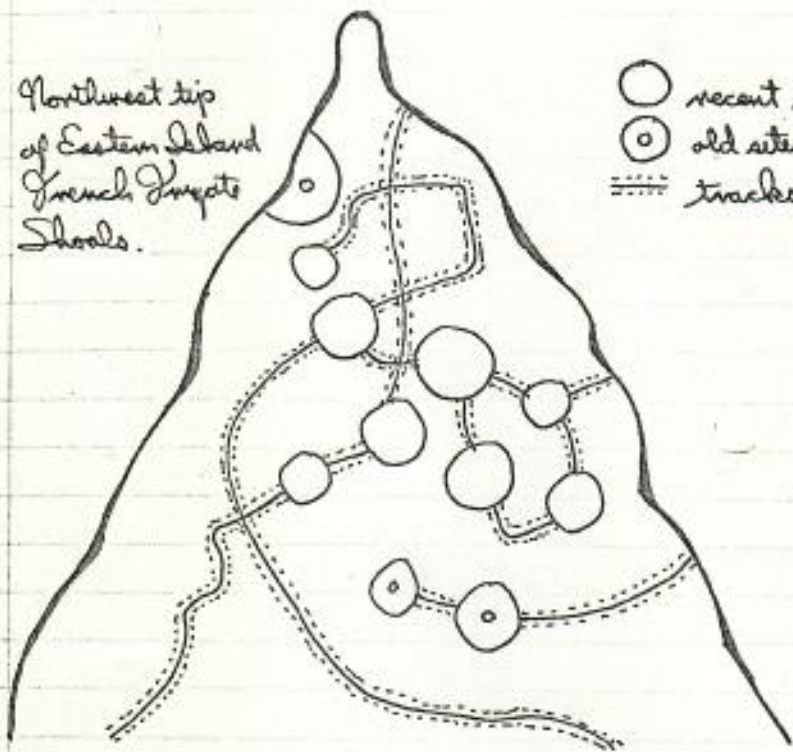
1530

1700



Northwest tip  
of Eastern Island  
French Frigate  
Shoals.

○ recent sites  
⊙ old sites  
⋯ tracks



1530

very sparse, less abundant than last trip. Made a fast trip up to Gin and Little Gin trying to stretch gas and beat sunset. Trip took one hour up and one hour back, with difficulty due to prevailing winds from NNE pushing light boat off course. EK eyeballing indicator decided that we would turn back if fuel reached a little above one half full. Landing on Gin was a little hairy due to small breakers all around island - but found gap on north end. Pulled boat way up on island, made fast check with one eye on boat. Only fins seals (two adult males, one adult female, one subadult female, one female pup) No turtles, a few boobies. Collected some balls and bottles, then got off fast before waves got higher. Decided not to try Little Gin due to seas and low sun, headed back for East Island slugging fruit juice. Sweated gas level all the way.

1700

Partial Seal Data: NW landing to midway  
point on East side as follows -

Adult Males	27	{ 5 moulting }
Adult Females	15	{ 1 moulting }
Adults unclass.	12	
Subadult Males	8	{ 1 dead } { 1 moult }
Subadult Females	11	{ 1 moulting }
Subadult unclass.	10	
Pup males	7	} 1 moulting
Pup females	4	

Banded seals, mostly subadults by hand

# 519	subadult female
511	pup male
510	pup male
520	pup female
512	pup female
513	pup male
521	subadult unclassified
514	pup male
516	pup female
517	subadult female
518	adult male

New turtles were encountered in evening

# 1013	♀	32 X 31 1/2 (a return)
# 115	♀	39 X 38 banded large, up to 300 lbs.

One Laysan Duck recovery ♀ 535 15216

LAYSAN

One Wandering Tattler, one Golden Plover,  
30-40 Turnstones. Tagged two turtles:

# 134 36 X 31 1/2 ♂

# 137 35 X 32 1/2 ♀

1235 Took photostation pictures from either end of  
island. Left North for South North anchorage  
1250 at). Counted birds - 26 adult Blue-faced  
Boobies (3 immatures), 2 common noddies (ads)  
Tagged 3 turtles:

# 138 35 X 33 ♂

# 139 28 X 26 1/2 ♀

# 141 36 X 32 1/2 ♂

Paired -  
Hovers

Saw two other turtles with a red carcass X  
on back. Checked seals - 11 seen, 1 tagged.

Took a break after collecting glass balls. - went  
swimming. Found a large CONUS shell deep on  
sandy-coraline bottom in about 3 feet of  
water 30 feet offshore. Collected it carefully,  
to avoid stinger. Kuidler looked for additional  
shells with no success. Large number of empty  
denuded sea urchin shells at beach.  
Dug in shallow water at beach edge where small  
hillocks hinted of their presence. Found live  
animals, broke them open and ate eggs from ♀s.

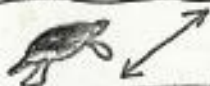
Not good for survival but not particularly tasty.  
Noted large, tame, mulllet up to two feet in  
length underwater. Swam through large  
school of nehu? (about 3 inches) which  
parted and closed behind us. Left South  
North Island, headed home under threatening

1430

1630

skies. Arrived on Southeast Island. Turned  
two out of three turtles. Tagged seals.  
Grabbed a yearling seal by night near

flipper, seal doubled back on itself in attempt to lift off hand, bit, missed hand, grabbed own flipper instead and held on. Fat pups are the easiest to hold by rear flipper because it can't double back. Knidler tagged as RLW held on. (Winds changed from South to North during the day) Notes on green sea turtle movement in water as seen from underwater:  
(Seen in water about 2-3 feet deep) Turtles rest on angle to surface:



Actually caught turtle who watched me. (By rear flipper) When chased, swam rapidly away. Also watched seals underwater - flippers on rear of animal go from side to side, some body undulation, front flippers used for maneuvering, steadying. (Small of Boerhavia and Tribulus in bloom on North Island almost overpowering. (Thought of C.F.) Retired early

Friday

September 23, 1966

A day of rest. Turned any turtles which came in over and gave them the "treatment" Tagged a few seals, took photostation pictures and scenic shots, did a lot of sleeping. Worked with Carl Kenyon on his study of seal pups on beach. Noted

one containing:	#	%
Octopus	5	50
(Humu) Bony-headed fish	33	30%
File Fish	6	10
Conger Eel	2	10

Individuals 46 100%

Saturday

September 24, 1966

Examined another seal speur on beach:

- 4 octopus
- 2 large squid beaks
- 30-40 small butterfly fish
- 2 spotted moray eels
- 4 triggerfish (Humu)

R.K. tried to get 100 samples (and did) of dead gooney bird chicks on outer beach (mostly black-footed) - stomach samples preserved in milk cage - dried. Found bits of plastic, japanese charcoal, toothbrush handles, string, wax, bottlecaps, pumice, wood, seeds and other things that float. Apparently picked up by adults on surface of ocean. Some carcasses were empty, apparently died of starvation. (73% of bird stomachs contained ~~25%~~ plastic.) (One contained 83 pumice stones.)

Total Turtles Topped - 49 (44 on SE Island)  
 " Seals " 88 (29 on SE Island)  
 8 turtle carcasses

TURTLE DATA: Southeast Island, Pearl and Hermes Reef 9/20 - 9/26, 1966

#	DIMENSIONS	SEX	COMMENTS
119	34 1/2 X 32	♀	
120	31 1/2 X 29 1/2	♀	
121	39 1/2 X 35 1/2	♂	
122	31 1/2 X 30 1/2	♀	
123	35 X 35	♂	
124	35 1/2 X 33	♀	
125	36 1/2 X 33 1/2	♀	
126	38 X 36	♀	
* 127	32 1/2 X 28 3/4	♀	
129	38 X 35 1/2	♀	Replaces #1062 - a recovery
1073	35 1/2 X 32 1/2	♂	recovery
130	31 1/2 X 29 1/2	♀	
131	40 1/2 X 38	♀	
132	33 X 31	♀	
1024	33 1/2 X 31	♀	recovery
133	35 X 32	♂	
1061	36 1/2 X 33	♂	recovery
143	32 1/2 X 30	♀	
144	39 1/2 X 34 1/2	♂	
145	34 X 33 1/2	♀	
146	37 X 33 1/2	♂	
147	36 X 32	♀	
1048	38 X 36 1/2	♀	recovery
* 127			recovery
148	39 1/2 X 33 1/2	♀	
149	35 X 35	♂	
151	35 X 33	♀	

00%

4, 1966

sh:

sh

d) of

ach

samples

bits

wash

pumice,

float.

surface

app-

bird

One

sand)

sand)

#	DIMENSIONS	SEX	COMMENTS
152	36 X 35	♀	
153	31 X 29 1/2	♀	
154	35 X 32 1/2	♂	
155	34 X 31 1/2	♀	
156	39 1/2 X 36 1/2	♀	
102	29 1/2 X 29 1/2	♀	recovery
157	35 1/2 X 31 1/2	♂	
158	35 X 32	♂	
159	41 X 39 1/2	♀	
150	41 X 38 1/2	♀	
160	42 X 39	♀	growth on neck
161	34 X 33	♂	
162	38 1/2 X 37	♀	
163	39 X 35 1/2	♀	
164	37 1/2 X 36	♂	
165	33 X 30	♀	
166	38 X 36	♀	
167	39 X 36	♀	
(39) 168	38 1/2 X 36	♀	

Sunday

September 25, 1966

Another day of rest. Tagged turtles and seals. Did some skinning in waters off south shore between beach and outer rocks. All concerned by lack of ship on horizon - were supposed to be picked up yesterday or today. 1430 Heard, then saw aircraft coming from direction of Midway. Great excitement - thought we were going to be rescued by air. U.F. flew over first, made several passes, then heard helicopter which landed on

Geobotany  
31

SEPTEMBER 1967

RONALD L. WALKER  
FIELD NOTES

Sunday

September 10, 1967

1700 Left Sand Island Coast Guard Station, Honolulu aboard USCGC Buttonwood. Cleared harbor entrance, waved at seven perched on hood of Red Datsun. C.O. of Buttonwood Lt Comdr. Haugen, Ex. O. Zimmerman. Those in scientific party:

Eugene Kessler - Wildlife Admin. USFWS

Ronald Walker - Wildlife Bio. State F.G.

John Siscock - " " USFWS.

Endangered Species Program

Bob Baller - Wildlife Bio. USFWS.

Chief - Refuge Division

1950 Had show with XO, went up on fantail for air, a little birdwatching. Saw Wedgetails, Common noddies, (a few R.F. Boobies off Honolulu Harbor) and several porpoises. Walker and Kessler got Chiefs' Quarters\* J.S., B.B. in sickbay. Movie - "Duel at Diablo" (the Indians lost again!)  
Brawl session in Ward room - planned for landing on Salua Tomorrow. Retired to air conditioned quarters.

2300

Monday

September 11, 1967

0630 Rains Rains Rains! Up all hands! Slept well in air conditioned splendor, but J.S. and B.B. suffered a bit. Off Salua Rock looking south into bay.

0830 Left ship in second boat trip. Seas relatively calm.

\* Won flip of coin.



NECKER SEALS: Adult males - 2  
 Adult females - 5  
 Yearling males - 1  
 Yearling females - 1  
 Unclass. adults - 6

Total 15

## TURTLES:

NECKER #	Tag	Sex	CALIPER		TAPE		Weight
			Length	Width	Snout	Width	
1	450	♀	33.85	24.80	36 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	33 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	200
2	426*	♀	30.30	24.10	32 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	30 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	155
3	636	♂	31.30	26.50	33 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	31 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	185

\* a recovery

1025 Had a snack and a rest and left camp for top of island to check birds, tower mounds, etc. J.S. counted noddy eggs, BB Frigates, EK. Boobies and RW Bluegrey noddies and fairy terns. (JS also eyeballed wedgetails) The counts that were made really showed only relative abundance, as the sides of the island were not censused. Also accuracy was limited by diversions from the route and birds flying up as others passed through the area to be counted. For instance at one time during day at least 2000 frigates were seen soaring overhead. The following figures thus show only a rough relative abundance of birds.

9/27/67 - 9/28/67

Turtle Data - evening.

New Tagging

Tag #	Caliper Measure	Tapo Measure	Sex	Weight
old - 101 R. ***	27.6 X 33.3	35 1/2 X 35	♂	212
new - 649 L.				
648	26.9 X 32.6	34 3/4 X 34	♂	185
650	29.1 X 35.0	37 3/4 X 36 1/4	♀	247 *
651	25.0 X 31.8	33 3/4 X 30.0	♂	162

Recovery \*\*

130	23.6 X 29.2	32.0 X 30.75	♀	127
104	25.1 X 31.0	33.0 X 31 3/4	♀	162
1057	27.7 X 32.5	34 3/4 X 35	♀	210
445	25.0 X 30.9	32 3/4 X 30 3/4	♀	153
132	25.4 X 31.6	34 1/4 X 31 1/2	♀	175
1094	25.6 X 31.5	33 3/4 X 33	♀	192

\* Chunk out of carapace near tail

One seal was tagged by E.K. - Unclassified yearling. # 285

2300 Retired exhausted.

Thursday

September 28, 1967

0730 Checked for turtles and seals. R.W. tried to shoot up some flares to get attention of ship to receive message on radio. First flares (shot from gun) fizzled - probably

Island

yearling ♀

subadult ♀

adult ♀

yearling ♀

(out)

4

nickap

the

sicken-

beach

atles.

imp and

jump

10 of

view of