

2nd Mediterranean Conference on Sea Turtles in Kemer, Turkey

Wayne Fuller

In April 2004, I attended the 2nd Mediterranean Conference on Sea Turtles in Kemer, Turkey. The conference was attended by over 200

people from countries surrounding the Mediterranean basin.

Here I presented a study which we carried out in collaboration with the British Antarctic Survey during the 2004 nesting season. In this study we attached devices on turtles which measured light intensity. The theory being that we could work out where these turtles go after nesting. From the data



Group taking a well earned rest after a hard week of conference socialising.

you can estimate the times of sunrise and sunset and from these timings you can then calculate the longitude and latitude of where the turtle has

been. This technology is much cheaper than satellite telemetry, but less accurate. During the 2004 nesting season we deployed over twenty of these data loggers and are now hoping to retrieve some during this nesting season. In future we hope to publish the findings of this study and

hopefully discover where more of our turtles go between nesting seasons.



Contact details:

Project Co-ordinators: Annette Broderick & Brendan Godley

Marine Turtle Research Group
Centre for Ecology and Conservation
University of Exeter in Cornwall
Tremough Campus
Penryn TR10 9EZ UK

Email: abroderick@seaturtle.org
Web site: <http://www.seaturtle.org/mtrg/>

Project Leader: Wayne Fuller

Address as above
Email: wfuller@seaturtle.org
Society for the Protection of Turtles in Northern Cyprus
P.O. 42, Girne, Mersin 10, Turkey
E-mail: wfuller@seaturtle.org



TURTLE NEWS

IN MEMORY OF IAN BELL

Annette Broderick

We were all deeply saddened by the death, in April this year, of Ian Bell, founder of the Society for the Protection of Turtles in Northern Cyprus, and with whom we have worked closely for the past 15 years. Ian and his wife Celia started monitoring the nesting beaches in Northern Cyprus in 1988 and called in the "students" in 1992 when they realised how many turtles there were and how much walking needed to be done!! And 15 years later we are still here....although not all students anymore...sadly!! Without Ian many of us, in particular myself and Brendan, would not be where we are now; Brendan and I based our PhD studies on the turtles of Northern Cyprus; the



Ian Bell with his wife Celia, Brendan and Ellie at the Grapevine

Cyprus turtle project would not be an internationally recognised research project; and the turtles would be much worse off! We have learnt so much, achieved so much and have so much to thank Ian for, not forgetting of course Celia and Kutlay Keco for all their hair pulling over the years!

I have many fond memories of Ian. Over the years Ian and Celia have effectively been our Cyprus parents! Whilst Celia was the socially sensitive maternal figurehead, Ian was marching around organising us. As an ex-soldier he saw us as an extension of the army we were his troops and our mission to save the turtles! We loved him dearly, his eccentric ways, his inability to be wrong, his selective

deafness, his endless generosity in feeding us, accommodating us, paying for things that he should not have.....we were his responsibility and he took his duties very seriously. In 15 years I only managed to buy his dinner once and had to sneak off before dessert to ensure he did not get there first!

Ian was one of the fittest 78 year olds I have ever met. He did not give in to old age and it is fitting that he died quietly in his sleep, and did not suffer any long term illness...he would not have made a good patient. His ashes have been scattered on Dartmoor near rocks special to his family.

In October 2006, Ian and Celia retired from SPOT as they had made the decision to move to France. This was probably the only

way that Celia could make Ian retire! Sadly they had only been there a few months before Ian passed away. In this newsletter I was due to write a piece announcing their retirement and thanking them for all their years of toil and introducing Wayne and Ozge Fuller who are doing their best to fill the space left behind. Many of you will have met Wayne over the past 6 years that he has been involved with the project. We are delighted that he and Ozge are now married and settled in Cyprus and that the project is now being run locally and more and more Cypriots are involved. Such is the legacy that Ian has left behind...he is sadly missed.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

In Memory of Ian Bell	1	Mediterranean Sub-population Revoked	3
Friends of SPOT	2	2nd Med Conference	4
Low Green Turtle Nest	3	Contact Details	4

Friends of SPOT

Tricia Dann

Peter and I moved to Alagadi, Northern Cyprus in March 2005 and now live opposite the "Goatshed". From May onwards we began to meet the students who were participating in this seasons project. It soon became apparent to us that the project would benefit from more funds. We decided to try to help by organising a "Turtle Awareness Fund Day" at Octopus Aqua Park in August. This took the form of children's



games which involved water games with inflatable turtles, a raffle and Karaoke. This event went extremely well and involved students, local Cypriots and tourists. The next event we arranged was "Fireworks Party" at Vogue Beach Club. Here we had a meal laid on by Adnan (the owner of the venue) where some of the proceeds went to the turtle project, an auction, a turtle race (no live animals were used!) and of course the obligatory bonfire and fireworks.

After this event we have ten people offering to help, so we had a meeting and decided to form a committee "Friends of SPOT Fundraisers". The first event organised by the new committee was to do some Carol Singing in Girne town square. We were joined by children from Sunny Lane School, all enjoyed themselves and a few more pennies went into the pot.

In January we held a free seminar where we invited hotels and other interested parties to send representatives. We showed the turtle DVD, and a presentation was given on turtle conservation in N. Cyprus by project leader Wayne Fuller, which was followed by a question and answer session. The idea of organising this seminar was 1. to publicise the project and to give them a basic knowledge about turtle conservation and 2. to make contacts, so when we have events going on we have people whom we can contact.

We now have permission to run an information desk in Kyrenia Harbour during the main hatching time Aug - Sept in order to direct

tourists if there is a nest excavation on that day.

One of the sponsorships we've managed to secure so far is from a flag manufacturer, who has offered to make a flag for the Goatshed. This will make the Goatshed location easier to find now that the original green turtle on the side of the Goatshed is somewhat obscured by the new buildings in Alagadi.

The forth coming events we hope to arrange during 2006 are

as follows:

- August.....2nd Turtle Fun Day
- Sept.....Jazz night (TBA)

Please keep an eye out in the local press for more details on the above.



LOW GREEN TURTLE NESTING DURING 2005

Wayne Fuller

This season we recorded only 36 green turtle nests Fig 1a, only 1996 had a lower number of green turtle nests. However, the number of loggerhead turtle nesting seemed to remain stable Fig 1b.

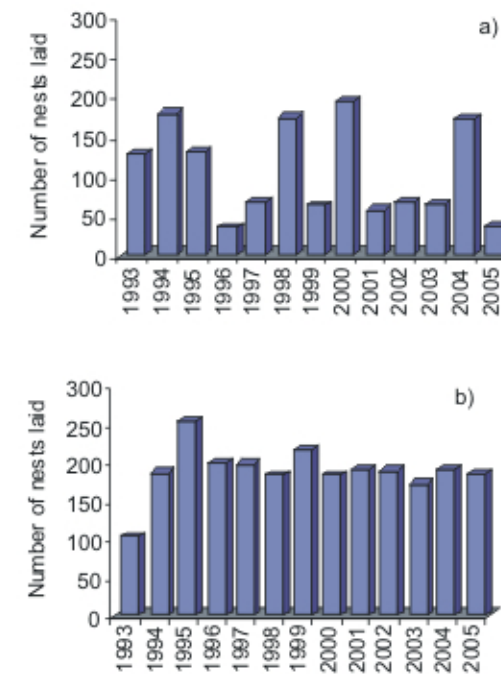


Fig 1. Total number of green turtle (a) and loggerhead (b) nests laid on the north and west coasts during 1993 - 2005.

The low number of green turtle nests was somewhat expected due to the fact that the green turtle nesting during 2004 was particularly high. This low amount of green turtle nesting was experienced throughout the eastern Mediterranean, so there is no real cause for concern. Hopefully 2006 will see some normality return to the numbers of green turtles nesting on the beaches of northern Cyprus.

The beaches on the Karpaz monitored by the Department of Environment experienced the lowest number of green turtle nests since they began monitoring. This was also the case with the beaches monitored in the south of the island.



IUCN downgrades the Mediterranean Green Turtles' Critically Endangered Status

Wayne Fuller

In May of this year the IUCN (World Conservation Union) removed the critically endangered status of the Mediterranean population of green turtles. It has now been officially downgraded to the global status of endangered. The reason for its removal from a regional categorisation to that of a global one is that there was not enough supportive



evidence to categorise the Mediterranean green turtle as a discrete population. This however could have some serious repercussions for those of us struggling to conserve this species within the Mediterranean. Having a classification of critically endangered lent weight to any negotiation to restrict development or to help in the designation of new protected areas.