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Ndumu Game Reserve,
P.O. Ndumu,
Zululand.
South Africa.
June, 1971.

TO ALL MEMBERS OF I.U.C.N. CROCODILE SPECIALIST GROUP.

At our meeting in New York in March, I agreed to edit a newsletter for the purpose of keeping everyone informed on recent developments in crocodile research and conservation. I had hoped to get this first edition out much earlier but the planning and design of the considerable extensions to my rearing station have taken up a great deal of time. Initially, I propose to circulate a newsletter every three months, but this will depend on your contributions. The more notes and items of interest you pass on to me, the better. I will be happy to send out a newsletter whenever there is enough information to fill a few pages.

NEWS ITEMS: U.S.A.

Financial Assistance: New York Zoological Society.

In a letter recently received from Wayne King, the following good news is contained:

- A) This Society has generously granted the necessary funds for the completion of Max Downes' crocodile Bibliography.
- B) Hugh Cott's work on the mating and nesting of the Murchison Falls crocodiles.
- C) Fred Medem's survey of the South American crocodilians.

Louisiana.

After the crocodile meeting, Rene Honegger and I visited the Rockefeller Wildlife Research Centre at the invitation of Bob Chabreck. I was fortunate in that I arrived in New Orleans a day late and through the kindness of Bob Chabreck and Alan Ensminger, Chief, Refuge Division, was picked up in a light aircraft and

flown some 275 miles down to Rockefeller Refuge. This was an unforgettable flight down over the Mississippi, over Lake Charles, looking at alligator, deer, and duck habitats on the way.

We were met by Bob Chabreck at Rockefeller and Ted Joanen who is alligator research project leader. Over the next five days we were the guests of Ted, who, apart from being an excellent host, was a very fine teacher. We toured the refuge looking at alligator habitat, had a look at typical nesting sites and heard about the radio telemetry tracking programme, and their studies on nesting ecology. We went out catching alligators one night and learned about the work they have done in perfecting methods of capturing, marking and sexing these animals and methods of determining the size and composition of alligator populations. They have many adult animals in captivity for artificial insemination and breeding experiments and have done experiments on mortality of young.

Anyone who has not got ~~copies~~ copies of the several papers produced at Rockefeller should write to Bob Chabreck and to Ted Joanen. We all have Bob's address and Ted can be contacted as follows:

Ted Joanen,
Project Leader, Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission,
Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge,
Route 1, Box 20-B,
Grand Chenier. Louisiana. 70643. U.S.A.

South Carolina.

Mark O. Bara, district biologist conducting research on the alligator in South Carolina. I am sure he would appreciate hearing from fellow alligator enthusiasts. His address is as follows:

Mark O. Bara,
South Carolina Wildlife Resources Department,
P.O. Box 167, Columbia, South Carolina, 29202. U.S.A.

SOUTH AFRICA.

Ndumu: Zululand.

A TV unit of Bill Burrud productions, which has

its headquarters in Los Angeles has been filming the day to day operations of the crocodile restocking station here. This is to be part of a film on crocodile conservation showing what is being done to conserve these animals in different countries in the world. Wolfgang and Sharon Obst are due to return here in summer to film the nesting, egg collection and hatching sequences.

NEW BOOKS.

Prof. Dr. Grzimek's latest book titled 'Amongst the Animals of Africa' has an interesting chapter on the Nile crocodile. It is published by Collins, London (1970).

Please let me have any items of news by August 30th at the latest.

TONY POOLEY.