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Information from the Elephant Interest Group Questionnaire

Elephant Editors

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INFORMATION FROM THE ELEPHANT INTEREST GROUP QUESTIONNAIRE

This section is a follow-up listing to that given in Elephant Newsletter No. 2. It includes members who are known to be involved or who have been involved with some type of elephant-related activity. Their activities and requests, as given in the questionnaire of newsletter 2 or via recent communication, are included. Our major source for this section was the Elephant Interest Group Questionnaire. Therefore, members (old and new) whose names are not included in this section but who wish to be, or wish to update their activities and future plans, are asked to fill in and return the attached questionnaire. Publications that were included in the questionnaire are listed in the appropriate sections in the bibliography. More back references will appear in future issues.

ACTIVITIES

- Abraham, Joyce: Has been extremely interested in captive elephants worldwide. She is a part-time employee at the Brookfield Zoo in Chicago.
- Adams, Jack (California State University): Had conducted research on elephants in Africa (1971, 1973, and 1975) and has begun making several documentary films. Lately he has been studying elephant dentition and behavior of elephants in captivity. The University maintains a museum of elephant specimens and welcomes donations. Adams has seen the unusual result of crossbreeding African and Asian elephants (see report in this issue).
- Agenbroad, Larry D.: Principal investigator of the Hot Springs Mammoth Site in South Dakota from 1974 to 1979 (National Geographic & Earthwatch Sponsorship). He is also the assistant director of the Lehner Ranch Mammoth Kill and Murray Mammoth Kill, both in Arizona (National Geographic sponsorship).
- Anderson, Elaine: Currently studying the taxonomy and distribution of North American mammoths. She has been interested in living elephants since childhood.
- Arthritis Institute: See description under Clark, Harold.
- Bloomer, Don: Is a former elephant keeper and is interested in elephant training.
- California State University: See description under Adams, Jack.
- Chester Zoo: Keeps elephants for exhibition. Has bred three calves over the past four years: in 1975, stillborn; one in 1977 (Asian), Jubilee, still alive; one in 1978, a hybrid, died later. (See report later in this issue.)
- The Circus Report: See description under Marcks, Donald.
- Clark, Harold W. (Arthritis Institute): Currently studying arthritis and related disorders of elephants. The study is conducted in collaboration with Daniel Laughlin, Jack S. Bailey, and Thomas McP. Brown. (See report in this issue.)
- Coker, Mike D. (Topeka Zoological Park): Has been involved in nutrition, training, and general zoo management of elephants. Specific interest is in improving captive maintenance techniques for trimming toenails and pads of feet.

Cosens, Donald L.: Is specifically interested in "Jumbo". (For information about Jumbo, see Elephant Newsletter 2, pg. 29.)

Davidar, E. R. C.: Is an honorary consultant to the Survival Service Commission of the IUCN and a member of the Southern Task Force to the Asian elephant group set up by the IUCN and WWF-India. He is well-acquainted with elephants and has observed, studied, and photographed them in their natural jungle habitat.

Dickerson Park Zoo: See description under Price, Paul.

Doherty, James G. (New York Zoological Society): As a curator of mammals, he is responsible for a group of one male and six female Asian elephants. Four of these are for exhibition and breeding purposes.

Dutrow, Barb: Is currently studying the mammoth from the Hot Springs Mammoth Site, South Dakota. She is emphasizing the intraspecific variation and population dynamics of 22 mammoths (Late Pleistocene) accumulated in a filled karst depression.

Elder, William H.: Maintains enduring interest in elephant problems in Botswana and Zambia after spending three periods of time there.

Ernst, Dieter: Is interested in interrelationships (behavior and communication) between ungulates, elephants, and other inhabitants of the African plains.

Flannery, John J.: Is a feature writer/photographer who has worked in wildlife extension and other projects in Africa.

Hallagan, John B. (National Wildlife Federation): Is studying ivory trade and its impact on the elephants and also its impact on the economics of the nations involved. In addition, the National Wildlife Federation is actively involved in the conservation of the African elephant leading to the Final Federal Rule to enlist the African Elephant as a threatened species. (Information on the Final Federal Rule is in Elephant Newsletter 2, pg. 11.)

Ishwaran, N.: Has completed masters thesis on ecological studies of the Asian elephant in the Gal Oya area, Sri Lanka, especially in relationship to distribution, population densities, habitat preferences, competitors, and food availability.

Johnsingh, A. J. T.: Has collected data on the population, migration, and feeding habits of the Indian elephants in Bandipur Tiger Reserve, Karnatak, India.

Johnson, Donald L.: Has done in-depth research on the swimming capabilities of elephants and is presently engaged in a long-range study of pygmy elephants (origin, evolution, chronology, and extinction) on the Northern Channel Islands, California. This study is in collaboration with Adrian M. Wenner.

Johnstone, Ronald C. B.: Is interested in the effects of elephant feeding and subsequent damage to vegetation. Spent four years in Uganda as district forest officer and was involved in a control program for elephants.

de Jong, Wilfried W.: Has done primary structure work (amino acid sequence) of elephant and hyrax eye lens proteins. He is now doing the same with aardvark and is trying to obtain lenses from manatee.

Kadziel, Margaret S.: Interested in elephant behavior, habitats, food habits, and competition with other animals for resources. As an archeologist, she is also interested in Paleo-Indian procurement systems depending upon mammoths.

Kerala University: See description under Nair, P.

Knoxville Zoo: Keeps elephants for exhibition. Has successfully raised two African elephant calves which were the first to be born in captivity in the Western Hemisphere. The first, "Little Diamond," was born on March 2, 1978; the second, "Hillary," on May 16 the same year. Both calves are females.

Lair, Richard: Is a professional photographer who is interested in southeast Asian wildlife, especially Asian elephants. He has compiled a card catalog of over 4,000 pieces of literature about them both.

Laughlin, Daniel C.: Is responsible for the health care of over one hundred Asian and African elephants in the U.S. Current research includes studies in arthritis, reproduction, vaccine efficacy, and clinical therapy. This study is in collaboration with Harold Clark.

Laurie, William A.: Lived in an elephant camp and used a riding elephant for 3½ years in Nepal for wildlife research.

Laws, Richard M.: Has conducted extensive studies on the African elephants in East Africa. Aspects of studies include age determination, reproduction, ecology, and general biology.

MacDowell, April E.: Is studying how mammoths were hunted in North America 11,000 years ago. Has been using modern elephant behavior studies and other such information to better understand ancient elephants.

McNeely, Jeffrey A. (World Wildlife Fund): Developing elephant conservation project for Sumatran elephants. Member of the Asian Elephant Specialist Sub-Group, IUCN/SSC.

Marcks, Donald S. (The Circus Report): Has done three elephant censuses in the U.S. Is currently working on a publication, "The Elephant in America."

Matthews, John V.: Interested in the environment in which the mammoth lived in North America, particularly Alaska and the Yukon; also in the extinction of the mammoth and how present studies of elephant ecology can contribute to our understanding of that unfortunate event.

Miller, Richard C.: Worked as a Peace Corps volunteer with ungulates, including elephants in Thailand, with the Royal Thai Forest Department, Division of Wildlife Conservation.

Moreau, (Sabu) Raymond: Has been working with the Ringling herds during his last 60 years' vacations. Is also putting together the Ringling Elephant History.

Nair, P. G. (Kerala University): Dean of Kerala Agricultural University, which is studying the elephants of Kerala.

National Wildlife Federation: See description under Hallagan, John.

Neville, William J.: Is presently compiling data on footcare of captive elephants, general maintenance and management of them, and general procedures used in dealing with a shattered tusk of an African elephant.

Plans to write a paper on each subject. Set up training and maintenance program for the three elephants at the Calgary Zoo.

New York Zoological Society: See description under Doherty, James.

Perry, Alfred J.: Visited sanctuaries in Africa and elephant-training camps in India.

Prance, Rachel J.: Is interested in elephant behavior and communication.

Price, Paul M. (Dickerson Park Zoo): Is supervising Dickerson Park Zoo's elephant-training program and is working with a 29-year-old cow.

Racine, Richard N.: Trained Asian elephants at Crandon Park Zoo, Miami, Florida. MS Thesis (1978) on elephant trunk behavior.

Rahman, A. Abdul: Has been interested in the parasites of elephants and has published several papers on this subject.

Saunders, Jeffrey J.: A vertebrate paleontologist who is working with Mammuthus (Elephantidae), particularly the extinction of North Africa's elephant population. Is also studying ivory elasticity.

Schaaf, C. D.: Worked as a warden in Uganda under the African Wildlife Leadership Foundation of Washington, D.C., from 1965-1967. Had numerous encounters with, and observations of, wild elephants in Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania.

Seitz-Hildebrand, Lili: Is working in the Zoological Institute in Hamburg and has made several trips to Africa. An avid collector of elephant figurines.

Smuts, Gouche L.: Has been collecting information about elephants' reproduction during the past ten years and is presently preparing it for publication. He has assisted Irven O. Buss, Lois E. Rasmussen, Jack Adams, and R. D. Martin with their research.

Swingtard, Ian: Is writing a 25,000 word monograph on the Paenungulata for a series on mammals--primarily for informed laymen.

Topeka Zoological Park: See description under Coker, Mike.

Tregembo, George R.: Owns one 67-year-old cow, Matteau.

deVilliers, Pieter: Is currently conducting a field study in the Etosha National Park. Aspects of study include elephant ecology, behavior, and collecting basic data. See comments in "Recent Correspondence."

Walker, Clive H.: Is currently involved in the Tuli Elephant Survey, aerial survey, darting program, new techniques on marked collars and experimental marking of elephant tusks with silver nitrate. (See report later in this issue.) Is also honorary consultant of the IUCN Elephant Group.

Weyerhauser, Rick: Assisted Iain Douglas-Hamilton with the IUCN elephant group. Accumulated data on long-term elephant social and population dynamics in Lake Manyara National Park in Tanzania.

World Wildlife Fund: See description under McNeely, Jeffrey.

FUTURE PLANS

According to the information provided in "Do you have any future plans..." in questionnaires from Elephant Newsletters 1 and 2, most Elephant Interest Group members who have been studying elephants plan/hope to continue or expand their present work, time and money permitting. There were, however, several members whose future plans differ from their current work. Letters have been sent to those individuals, giving them the opportunity to confirm and update their plans. An account of plans will be included in the next issue once they are received in our office.

REQUESTS

Arthritis Institute: See description under Clark, Harold.

Clark, Harold W. (Arthritis Institute): 1) Would like to obtain joint and associated tissue (synovia) as well as sera from captive and/or wild elephants; oral and genital tract swabs, and tissues to establish diagnostic tests for arthritis and related disorders. 2) Would also like to see medical "hot-line" established where elephant owners can call for information and assistance. Daniel C. Laughlin has been suggested as one of the team experts. (See further comments under Miscellaneous.)

Coker, Mike (Topeka Zoological Garden): Would appreciate any information on chest and stomach lymph nodes of Asian elephants. Is also interested in communicating about other techniques regarding skin and foot care, as well as artificial insemination of elephants.

Doherty, James C. (New York Zoological Society): The Society is interested in material pertaining to captive management and behavior of wild elephants.

Dutrow, Barb: Would like to obtain an articulated elephant foot - front and back - including carpals/tarsals and phalanges for use in positive identification of these elements when disarticulated. Especially needs metapodials and phalanges.

Hallagan, John B. (National Wildlife Federation): Would like current information on the ivory trade and its origins in Africa as well as current population figures.

Idaho State University Museum of Natural History: See description under Miller, Susanne.

Laughlin, Daniel C.: See description under Clark, Harold.

McNeely, Jeffrey A. (World Wildlife Fund, Indonesia): Would like to obtain any information on elephant conservation programs, particularly elsewhere in Asia.

Miller, Susanne J. (Idaho State Museum of Natural History): The Museum would like to obtain literature dealing with detailed osteology and myology. In addition, it would be most interested in obtaining recent osteological material for comparative purposes and bone-fracturing studies.

National Wildlife Federation: See description under Hallagan, John.

Neville, William J.: Would like to be in contact with anyone involved with the artificial insemination of captive elephants.

New York Zoological Society: See description under Doherty, James.

Prance, Rachel J.: Would like to exchange reprints, especially those concerning elephant behavior and communication.

Price, Paul M.: Is interested in details of different procedures used in the care and management of captive elephants.

Saunders, Jeffrey J.: Would like to obtain tusk material for scanning electron microscope work.

Schaaf, C. D.: Would like information on recent techniques for counting Asian elephants in order to establish population estimates or density figures. He is also interested in data on the range and movements of elephant herds in Sri Lanka and data pertaining to the conflict between elephants and farmers in that country.

Shoshani, Jeheskel: Is interested in obtaining blood samples from wild elephant populations for population genetic studies. The more samples from different individual animals within a population, the better. Amount of frozen plasma or serum needed is 5-10 ml.

Swingtard, Ian: Is interested in obtaining information about elephants in captivity--broken down by countries, male or female, Asian or African.

Topeka Zoological Park: See description under Coker, Mike.

Walker, Clive H.: Would like to obtain any information concerning radio tracking.

Whitehill, Norris: Is interested in obtaining information regarding elephant trunk musculature and the physical characteristics of the skin which covers the main trunk muscle.

World Wildlife Fund, Indonesia: See description under McNeely, Jeffrey.

Further activities and requests are included in Elephant Newsletter No. 2. Readers are referred to this since our records show that the information is still valid.