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A Note From The Editor

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A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Fellow Members of the Elephant Interest Group,

The general response to the first Elephant Newsletter was most encouraging. The overall feeling conveyed was that the establishment of the Elephant Interest Group was long overdue. Readers were particularly appreciative of the references and requested that this service be continued if possible.

This issue of the newsletter is late for several reasons. First, some individuals, via verbal and written communication, have stressed the importance of publishing the information requested in the questionnaire, especially information pertinent to current research on elephants in this current issue of the newsletter. For this reason, a letter was mailed in February to all members who had not yet returned their completed questionnaires. Second, we had to have a Computer Bibliographic Search Services (CBSS) done in early 1978 rather than in the late 1977 as previously anticipated. These plus other activities that the editor was engaged in resulted in delaying this newsletter.

The Biology Department of Wayne State University is generous in its continuing support of the production and mailing of the Elephant Newsletter. Due to rising costs, it will be necessary to accept offers made by some correspondees to help in defraying the expenses especially to pay for secretarial work and mailing. Members who wish to contribute, kindly make checks payable to "Wayne State University, Department of Biology", and indicate "Elephant Interest Group" on the back of the check or below under "memo". Please mail checks to me. Cancelled checks will serve as receipts. These contributions are tax deductible.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who sent information to the newsletter. Members who are on the Wayne State University campus and/or in the Detroit vicinity have been helping in the preparation of the newsletter by proofreading, organizing and making useful comments and suggestions. In particular, I would like to thank William Prychodko for his continual efforts to make this issue a success, and Mary Jo Szuba for assisting with the Bibliography. All the staff at the Biology Department are hereby acknowledged for their help, especially, Chairman, John D. Taylor, Lynne M. Aldrich and Suzanne C. Hicks. The staff of our Science Library and Shiffman Medical Library are also acknowledged for their assistance with the CBSS, interlibrary loans and other library matters. In particular I would like to thank Stephen De Voe.

The list of individuals and institutions known to be interested in elephants is rapidly increasing. At this writing, there are 237 names on the membership list and an additional 43 on the mailing list. It is the hope that this newsletter will continue to serve as a nucleus for attracting new ideas and will stimulate further interest in elephants. Readers are encouraged to contribute relevant articles, information and requests.

Hezy Shoshani

Jeheskel (Hezy) Shoshani
Detroit, May 1, 1978