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Editorial Comment

As we go to press with this second issue of *Chelonian Conservation and Biology*, we wish to acknowledge the overwhelming and enthusiastic response that our first issue has generated from all over the world. You, our authors, readers, and subscribers, have demonstrated the confidence and support that will ensure the continued success and stability of this undertaking. We thank you for your endorsement and will strive to maintain our commitment to quality and excellence. We hope and trust that this second issue will also be favorably received.

Already, our distribution success has been heart-warming. Subscription requests for the journal arrive daily and our current circulation approaches 600, with about one-third of those outside the United States. The journal currently reaches 45 nations and 44 US states and territories. Numerous institutions worldwide have signed on, and the list grows steadily. To further enhance access to papers published in *Chelonian Conservation and Biology* we have also solicited and achieved indexing and review status for the journal with the major abstracting services – *Biological Abstracts*, *Current Contents*, *Wildlife Review*, and *Zoological Record*. Manuscripts for publication have been arriving at a steady pace and we now anticipate a regular semi-annual publication schedule, with the next two issues tentatively scheduled for January and July 1995.

Thus far we have published only articles dealing with freshwater turtles and tortoises, but we also welcome contributions on marine turtles. When our original Editorial Board was selected we concentrated primarily on non-marine turtle specialists. In order for us to deal more effectively with marine turtle papers as well, we have now added three world-renowned marine turtle specialists to our Editorial Board. We are therefore pleased to welcome Karen A. Bjorndal, Nat B. Frazer, and Nicholas Mrosovsky to our Board, and we invite the sea turtle conservation and research communities to avail themselves of this opportunity to use our journal for publication of some of their reports. In extending this invitation, we do not in any way wish to compete with or compromise the global success already achieved by the *Marine Turtle Newsletter*, but hope instead to fill the unoccupied publication niche between its format of informal newsnotes and field reports, and the more formal and rigorously mainstream herpetological journals.

We also remind our readership and potential authors that we are a journal of chelonian conservation **and** biology and that we are interested not only in papers dealing with conservation-related issues, but also research on pure biology, basic science, life history, distribution, status, systematics, husbandry, or any other scientifically pertinent aspect of the study of turtles and tortoises. Our goals are not only to help conserve the turtles of the world, but also to augment and document our understanding of their biology and diversity.

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