

Trainee News Trainee &  
B. C. CHOUDHURY / SUMMER SCHOOL 1988

I wonder what I should call myself;

<sup>a</sup> Summer School Trainee 1988 or Summer School 1988 as I did  
SIR. Six years later, when I sit to write <sup>what</sup> ~~this I find~~ <sup>done</sup> ~~since~~, I  
~~myself searching for words where to start.~~ I have  
~~don't know where to begin.~~ <sup>in the</sup> <sup>current</sup> I am a faculty member  
at the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun. I teach Herpetology,  
Wetland Ecology, Captive Breeding and Zoo Management, and Sustainable  
Utilization of Wild Resources. <sup>to the</sup> <sup>student</sup> <sup>of the</sup> <sup>Wildlife</sup> <sup>Programme</sup>  
<sup>Senior</sup> <sup>Diploma</sup> <sup>Indian</sup> <sup>Forest</sup> <sup>Service</sup> <sup>Officials</sup> who get a diploma in wildlife  
and to junior forest officials who get a certificate. I also  
conduct ~~workshops~~ <sup>two</sup> <sup>6 week</sup> <sup>and</sup> <sup>2 week</sup>  
Zoo Management course for Zoo officials.

I supervise a research team. The first one has  
completed a four year monitoring research on reintroduced  
mugger crocodiles in the state of Madhya Pradesh. The second project  
on smooth skin otter Leptonyx has just completed field work  
of monitoring four radio-implanted otters in Chambal river in  
Central India. Both these projects have given us a lot of information  
on aquatic species management.

In July 1991 I have initiated a Ganguly's turtle <sup>with</sup> <sup>USA Wildlife Service</sup>  
conservation project <sup>collaboration</sup> with the state wildlife  
officials and with the help of a field biologist I have just  
completed a census status survey in western Ghats, Indraprastha, Jhansi  
North-Central India and Western India. <sup>Following</sup> <sup>monsoon</sup> after the rains  
we plan to take up South India <sup>and</sup> <sup>that</sup> <sup>this</sup> <sup>should</sup> <sup>help</sup> <sup>us</sup>  
to decide species wise conservation Action plan. This survey has  
extended the range of ~~the~~ <sup>several</sup> <sup>chelonian</sup> <sup>species</sup>  
We have also completed a countrywide turtle market survey. <sup>Based</sup> <sup>on</sup> <sup>napkins</sup> <sup>received</sup> <sup>from</sup> <sup>over</sup> <sup>seventy</sup> <sup>zoos</sup> <sup>and</sup> <sup>personal</sup>  
based on napkins received from over seventy zoos and personal  
to the other thirty (that covers almost 50% of zoos in India)  
we also planned a co-ordinated captive breeding programme of  
chelonian species for ultimate reintroductions.

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Below. ~~same~~ ~~very~~ ~~exciting~~ ~~work~~ in Brahmaputra river in Manipal  
In 1993 I have ~~plans~~ <sup>to</sup> initiate a research project  
on genetic river dolphin, and M.S. dissertation on the water  
monitor lizards in the Bhitarkanika wildlife sanctuary which I intend  
to expand into a <sup>research project on</sup> ~~habitat mangrove~~ ~~obligate~~ ~~habitat~~ ~~obligate~~ mangrove vegetation.

(Nov-90 - April 91)

④ I ~~also~~ directed a

→ A six month field research project on Indian Python  
at the famous Keoladeo Ghana Bird Sanctuary in Bharatpur.  
This project has helped the <sup>park</sup> ~~sanctuary~~ authority to ~~shift~~  
their attention to ~~focus~~ ~~other~~ ~~flora~~ ~~other~~ than their birds.

~~Right now I am busy~~

From July to Sept 1990 I spent some exciting time in the Shobell  
in ~~the~~ ~~river~~ in Somalia surveying & counting Nile crocodiles  
as a ~~for~~ consultant.

Right now I am busy <sup>reviewing</sup> the successful <sup>countrywide</sup>  
Crocodile Conservation Programme in India and to draft a <sup>statewise</sup> ~~statewide~~  
Action plan for each state <sup>on</sup> ~~an~~ <sup>supplan</sup> ~~supplan~~ crocodile management  
and field research.