

is all around them in their everyday life -- wildlife like butterflies, centipedes, bats, frogs and toads, stray monkeys, snakes etc, all make up "wildlife". "How many of you catch butterflies and dragonflies?", I asked, and all the hands went up. They told that they tied a thread to the dragonfly, let it fly and pull back the thread. Why? It was fun, they thought. I asked if they would like to be tied and pulled like that. It is not right to torture animals, I said.

Some students revealed that they kill snakes, some for food. Others said they killed bats also for consumption. They said they did not, however, kill amphibians for food after the Amphibian programme that was given at the last programme we had together.

I gave them the 'Daily life Wildlife' packets from ZOO. The children went through the materials after which they tied the wrist bracelet or rakhi to one another, making a promise to learn more about wildlife around them. They wore the mask in their packet and pretended to be butterflies. They promised to plant more plants and trees in their garden and to attract butterflies and other small insects.



I thank Zoo Outreach Organisation, Coimbatore for the colourful and interesting materials, and the children, teachers and Head Mistress, Government Primary School, Jayalakshimpuram for the opportunity to use the materials. **Submitted by Tanuja DH, Mysore, Karnataka. Emails : tanujadh@gmail.com, tanudh@yahoo.co.in**

ZOO ZEN Special Issue on Visitor Behaviour

Zoo Outreach Organisation has always taken a great interest in Visitor Behaviour, creating teaching modules and materials to use in convincing visitors not to tease and torment animals and even catching school children early to establish good habits in them. March/April issue of ZOO ZEN features articles about Visitor Behaviour at the zoo. Kumaragurubaran has written an article on the basis of his M.Sc. thesis in 1992. Dr. Venugopal and his co-authors wrote articles about visitor behavior at the LTM enclosure in 1993 and at the Asiatic Lion enclosure in 1994.

Krishnakumar, then Director of the Arignar Anna Zoological Park wrote two articles with N. Baskar, one of his education officers about how the zoo's student corp helped curtail entry of plastic at the zoo and another about behavioural and attitudinal change toward protecting zoo animals. Rajendran, S., P.C. Saseendran and R. Chitra co authored two articles about visitor behavior at primate enclosures and later about the ethology of teasing both in the Thrissur Zoo. Rajeev, R.M.T. also wrote about plastic and its destructive qualities in the zoo.

All of those articles are a sample by Indians about Indian zoos. The next few articles are by educators from foreign countries. Stephen Bitgood *et al* discussed how to control public feeding by visitors, and Donald Thompson *et al* discussed the control of littering. Valerie Thompson, the well known environmental enrichment expert has written about Non-compliant behavior in San Diego Zoo. Bitgood, who is a doyen of visitor studies of zoos and museums also features with an article about the misconceptions of Do-Not-Feed signs. This is a popular topic: Charles Wilson also wrote about Public Feeding of animal in Bitgood's Journal. Be sure and read the delightful article by Florence Bramley suggesting the use of humour in eliciting cooperation from visitors.

The issue ends with two power point presentations by Sally Walker written in the early part of this decade (probably) one entitled simply Visitor Behaviour and the other UFAW Wildlife Welfare Presentation. If these presentations appeal to you, we will send them to you for your use as Power points via email (free) or on a CD (for cost of postage).

