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## A case report of snake eating by Rosy Pelican (*Pelecanus onocrotolus*)

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In Maitri Baag zoo, which is located in the industrial area of Bhilai is categorized as a medium class zoo by the Central Zoo Authority, India. Fifteen Rosy Pelicans have been kept in an enclosure, through which a canal flows. The pelicans are in healthy state and have been observed breeding successfully 2 times. They attract the visitors a lot.

Normally rosy pelicans feed on fish and snail (Pandey, 2005; Ali, 1977). However, on one occasion the zoostaff, including first author have observed an unusual behaviour of snake feeding by a male rosy pelican. Water snake (*Natrix piscator?*) made its way into the enclosure through a gap in the chain link fencing of the enclosure and was immediately caught by a male pelican by its beak and engulfed into the mandibular pouch. The bird started shaking the pouch sideways by movements of head. During the processes of engulfing the remaining portion still outside of the beak of the bird violently moved, as an attempt to escape. But those attempts were futile and snake gradually moved into the pouch. In the processes of swallowing started, in which the bird repeatedly raised the head in an almost vertical position obviously to straighten the oesophagus and helps swallowing.

In this phase of eating the prey repeatedly emerged to the mandibular pouch and showed violent movements after four such attempts the snake was fully swallowed.

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