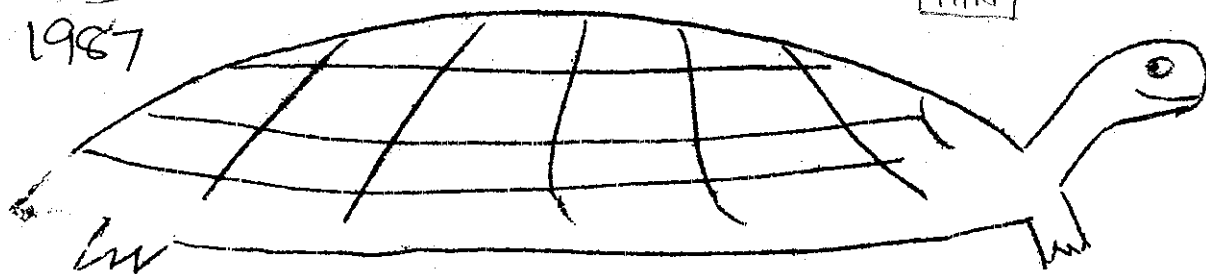


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RPN 2758

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LIVE TURTLE FOUND IN TIRUMALA HUNDI

(The Hindu, 20.11.86)

An unknown devotee has offered a live turtle for Lord Venkateswara at Tirumala. The cute little turtle wrapped in a piece of cloth was found this morning when the temple staff were sorting out the contents of the hundi. The temple authorities, surprised at the freak offering, consigned it later to the temple tank. It is surprising how the turtle stayed alive having remained throughout the night in the airtight safety vault of the temple where the large hundi vessel, crammed with an assortment of offerings, is sealed and kept every night before the closure of the temple.

OLIVE RIDLEY NESTS

S M A Rashid of the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh, was been working on marine turtles since 1983. He writes to say that he found a nest of 196 Lepidochelys olivacea eggs on St Martins Island in January '84. Hawksbills also occasionally nest on this island.

TURTLES AND POLLUTION

According to Shri V B Singh, Adviser, U.P. Govt, on wildlife and conservation, fresh water turtles are the best scavengers of rivers like the Ganga where dead bodies or partly burnt bodies pose problems of pollution. The State Forest Department has prepared a 250 crore research project to introduce five species of fresh water turtles into the Ganga to combat pollution. (From 'Corsonat', Vol 2 No. 2)

A TRIP TO THE CHAMBAL

Chandini Menon and Mike and Gretchen Ewert spent five days on the Chambal with Dr S J Rao and R.K. Mishra. At Morena they visited the well maintained Deori Rearing Centre where Kachuga kachuga, K.tentoria, K.tecta and K.dhongoka are being reared. On the river, they saw a Chitra in the water and many softshells basking. At Rohn there are huge, twisted laterite formations, sheer cliffs dropping 20 ft into the river. Here they saw shoals of enormous cat fish, basking kachugas and softshells in the river as well as a couple of gharial.