

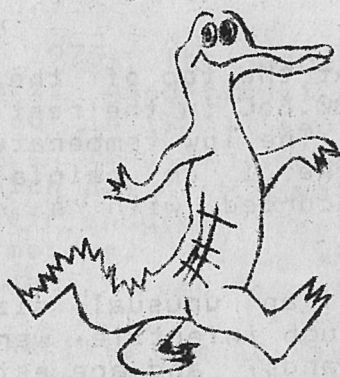
ON THE RIDLEY TRAIL

The Students Sea Turtle Conservation Network (SSTCN) established a hatchery at Nilankarai, Madras on 11th January 1989, for the olive ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) with the permission of the Tamil Nadu State Forest Department and the Government of India Department of Environment. Sixty eight nests (8,625 eggs) were collected between 11th January to 24th February, 1989. A total of 5,725 hatchlings were released by 13th April (hatchling success 66.38%). A detailed report is in preparation for publication in a future issue. The sea turtle hatchery for the 1989-90 season will be established in 1989 at Nilankarai, Madras.

SSTCN also hopes to conduct a variety of conservation awareness programmes apart from the sea turtle programme, which serves as a focal point for conservation and public education in Madras. Interested individuals are invited to contact Kartik Shanker (Secretary) at the address given below:

Students Sea Turtle Conservation Network
A1/14 III Main Road, Besant Nagar
Madras 600090

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AN UNUSUAL RECORD OF CROCODYLUS MORELETII NESTING

Harry Andrews, Curator, Madras Crocodile Bank

In August 1987, the Madras Crocodile Bank acquired ten *Crocodylus moreletii* yearlings from Zoo Atlanta, U.S.A., thanks to Dr. Howard Hunt. These animals were shipped by air and on arrival were measured, sexed and stock coded by scute clipping. They ranged from 95 cms to 114 cms in total length; 48.5 cms to 60.0 cms snout to vent; and 3070 gms to 4620 gms in weight. On sexing the yearlings, nine of them were found to be females and one was a male.

The initial rearing enclosure for the crocodiles was a circular pen 6.5 M in diameter, with a 1.2 M high stone wall with a pond