

Equally important will be to have constant interactions with local communities living in these areas to gather information regarding possible sightings. Other methods of increasing information relating to the Malabar civet include creating awareness among forest department staff, local communities, field researchers, and members of the scientific community. These interventions will be kept in mind when implementing the second phase of this project; camera trapping efforts will be increased by using six more traps, giving a total of 14. The areas which will be given higher priority for camera trapping in the next phase of the survey will be around Honnavar, Karwar, Bhatkal, and Kumta in Karnataka and areas surrounding Nilambur, Neyyar, and Aralam in Kerala.

### Acknowledgements

We thank the Karnataka and Kerala Forest Departments for the permits and other logistic support. The project is financially supported by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, India. We would like to thank the editors for their useful comments that helped improve the manuscript. Our sincere thanks to the local people for their co-operation during the field work.

### References

- Ashraf, N. V. K., Kumar, A. & Johnsingh, A. J. T. 1993. Two endemic viverrids of the Western Ghats. *Oryx* 27: 109–114.
- Jerdon, T. C. 1874. *A handbook of the mammals of India*. Reprinted in 1984 by Mittal Publications, Delhi.
- Karanth, K. U. 1986. A possible sighting record of Malabar Civet (*Viverra*

*megaspila* Blyth) from Karnataka. *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 83: 192–193.

Kurup, G. U. 1987. Rediscovery of the Malabar Civet, *Viverra megaspila civettina* Blyth in India. *Cheetal* 28: 1–4.

Prater, S. H. 1971. *The book of Indian animals*, third edition. Bombay Natural History Society, Bombay.

Pocock, R. I. 1939. *The fauna of British India including Ceylon and Burma*. Mammalia, second edition, vol. 1. Reprinted in 1975 by Today and Tomorrow's Printers and Publishers, New Delhi.

Rai, N. D. & Kumar, A. 1993. A pilot study on the conservation of Malabar Civet (*Viverra civettina* (Blyth, 1862)). Project report. *Small Carnivore Conservation* 9: 3–7.

<sup>1</sup>Siddharth Rao, Wildlife Trust of India, A-220, New Friends Colony, New Delhi 110065, India.

#### Present address:

62 Mohini Apartments, No. 1 Rest House Road,  
Bangalore 560001, India.

Email: sidsrao@gmail.com

<sup>2</sup>N. V. K. Ashraf, Wildlife Trust of India, A-220, New Friends Colony, New Delhi 110065, India.

<sup>3</sup>A. M. A. Nixon, Wildlife Trust of India, A-220, New Friends Colony, New Delhi 110065, India.

## OBITUARY

### Dr. W. Chris WOZENCRAFT (1954–2007)

It is with sincere regret we inform you that W. Chris Wozencraft died on 6 January 2007 at age 53, near Manistique, Michigan, USA. Chris was a native of Oklahoma and received a Ph.D. from the University of Kansas for his work on the phylogenetics of Viverridae. Chris's most recent position was Professor of Biology and Chair of the Division of Natural Sciences at Bethel College, Indiana. He had published many scientific articles, including the notable taxonomic review of the order Carnivora for the recent book *Mammal Species of the World*. Chris's research elicited the taxonomy and systematics of mammals, especially the Carnivora, with which he was especially familiar and with which his name will long be associated. Chris was an active member of the Small Carnivore Specialist Group, helping the group move forward in various ways, including maintaining the groups' membership directory. Last December, Chris was selected and accepted to serve as Chair of the Small Carnivore Specialist Group. Chris's contributions to the profession were monumental. His untimely death was most unfortunate; he will be deeply missed.