



DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY

Best Practice 1: “Local Species Journal”

(also called *Phenology Notebook* or *Campus Biodiversity Log*)

Tag line:

“No lab? No problem. Your campus is your field station.”

How it works:

Each student maintains a **handwritten or digital journal** over one semester where they observe, sketch, and document **any 10–15 animal species** found in their immediate surroundings — college campus, home garden, nearby pond, roadside, or vacant plot.

What students record (per species):

Field	Example
Common & scientific name	House Crow (<i>Corvus splendens</i>)
Date, time, location	10 April, 8:30 AM, near canteen
Habitat seen	On neem tree, near garbage bin
Behaviour (2–3 lines)	Foraging in pairs, calling loudly
Sketch or phone photo	Simple pencil sketch or phone photo pasted
One unique observation	Returned to same spot daily at 8 AM

Why it’s student-centric:

- Students choose **their own species** and schedule
- No pressure — observation can be done **between classes or at home**
- Builds **ownership and curiosity**

- Works for **all learner levels** (slow learners can start with common butterflies; advanced students can focus on insect life cycles)

Why it's experiential:

- Moves beyond textbook diagrams to **real animal behavior**
- Develops **field skills** (identification, patience, note-taking)
- Connects theory (classification, ecology, ethology) to **living examples**

Why it's low-cost / no-cost:

- **No equipment needed** — just notebook + pen (or mobile camera if available)
- **No field trip expenses** — campus or home surroundings are free
- **No lab consumables** — no stains, slides, or chemicals
- **No printing costs** — can be submitted as physical notebook

How to assess (simple & fair):

- **Completion** (minimum 10 species) — 50%
- **Accuracy** of scientific names — 20%
- **Effort** (sketch quality + behavioral detail) — 30%
- **Bonus:** Best 3 journals displayed on department notice board

Optional extension: Students can add -

- **Ecological role** (pollinator, predator, scavenger)
- **Seasonal pattern** (seen only in monsoon / winter)
- **Threats observed** (plastic, pesticides, stray cats)

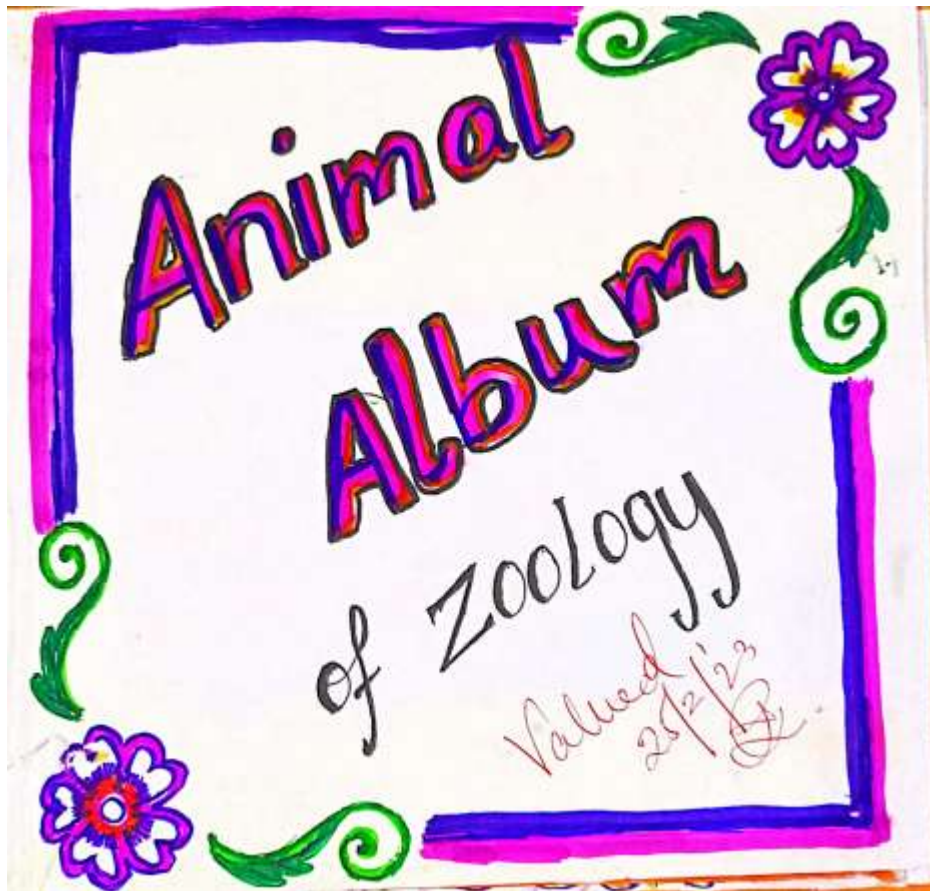
One-line summary for the department notice board:

Start a Local Species Journal — observe one animal a week, right where you are.



**BACKYARD
BIRD
COUNT**

Evidence



Evidence

Crab

Phylum - Arthropoda
 Class - Crustacea
 Kingdom - Animalia
 Name - Crab



Crab

Crabs are decapod crustaceans of the infraorder Brachyura, which typically have a very short projecting "tail", usually hidden entirely under the thorax. They live in all the world's oceans in freshwater, and on land rare generally covered with a thick exoskeleton and have a single pair of pincers. They first appeared during the Jurassic period.

Crabs often show marked sexual dimorphism. Males often have longer claws, a tendency that is particularly pronounced in the fiddler crabs of the genus *Uca*. In fiddler crabs, males have one greatly enlarged claw used for communication, particularly for attracting mates.

Mantis religiosa



- * The Mantis religiosa is a large hemimetabolous insect in family of Mantodea
- * M. religiosa can be found through out Europe, Asia and Africa
- * M. religiosa courtship and mating are separated into two steps
- * Copulation begins with physical contact and ends when the spermatophore is deposited
- * The phenomenon that some species are attacked and eaten after, during and sometimes even before copulation is called an sexual cannibalism

Scutigera



- * Scutigera is commonly known as House Centipede
- * It is typically yellowish-grey and has upto 15 pairs of long legs
- * Originating in the Mediterranean region, it has spread to other parts of world.
- * It is an insectivore; it kills and eats other arthropods.
- * House centipedes lay their eggs in spring.
- * They are very sensitive to ultraviolet light.

Velutella



- * Velutella is a cosmopolitan free-living hydrozoan that lives on the surface of the open ocean.
- * It is commonly known by names sea raft, by the wind sailor, purple sail, little sail.
- * Velutella lives in warm and temperate water in all the world's oceans.
- * Velutella has a bipartite life cycle, with a form of alternation of generations.
- * Each individual with its sail, is not really a hydroid colony.

Excellent B2 info

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY

BEST PRACTICE DOCUMENT

Best Practice 2: “Books for Brilliance: Rewarding Academic toppers”

Title of the Practice

“Books for Brilliance: Rewarding Academic Toppers”

Tag line:

“Win a Book that Carves your Career”

1. Objectives of the Practice

- To **motivate students** to achieve academic excellence in university examinations
- To **recognize and appreciate meritorious students** in a meaningful way
- To cultivate a **reading culture and intellectual curiosity** among students
- To reinforce the idea that **knowledge is the best reward**
- To inspire other students to strive for **higher academic performance**

2. The Context

In the present academic environment, students often require **continuous motivation and recognition** to perform at their best. While certificates and prizes are common, they may not always contribute directly to academic growth.

Considering this, the faculty member initiated a practice of **rewarding top-performing students with subject-related or competitive exam-oriented books**. This approach ensures that the reward itself becomes a **tool for further learning and academic enrichment**.

The practice aligns with:

- **Student-centric learning approaches**
- Promotion of **reading habits**
- Encouragement of **self-directed learning**

3. The Practice

Under this initiative, students who secure the **highest grades in University examinations like “O” Grade or “Highest SGPA”** are identified and rewarded with carefully selected books.

◇ Key Features:

- **Books are chosen based on:**
 - Subject relevance
 - Competitive exam preparation
 - Advanced learning resources
- **Recognition is done:**
 - In classrooms / departmental meetings
 - During academic events or gatherings
- **The initiative is:**
 - **Personally driven by the teacher**
 - **Consistent and transparent** in selection criteria

◇ Unique Aspects:

- Unlike monetary rewards, books serve as **long-term academic assets**
- Encourages a **culture of knowledge sharing and reading**
- Acts as both **recognition and reinforcement of learning**

4. Evidence of Success

- Noticeable **improvement in student performance and competition**
- Increased **interest in subject-related reading beyond syllabus**
- Positive feedback from students regarding:
 - Motivation levels
 - Sense of recognition
- Enhanced **student engagement in academic activities**
- Students demonstrate **better preparedness for higher studies and competitive exams**

5. Resources Required

◇ Problems Encountered:

- Limited financial resources as the initiative is **self-funded**
- Identifying the most **appropriate and useful books** for diverse learners
- Ensuring continuity of the practice over time

◇ Resources Required:

- Financial support by the teacher, herself for procurement of books
- Institutional encouragement to scale the practice
- Access to updated and quality academic resources

6. Impact of the Practice

- Promotes a **positive academic culture** within the institution
- Strengthens **teacher-student rapport**
- Encourages **peer learning and healthy competition**
- Contributes to the development of **lifelong learning habits**
- Aligns with NAAC quality indicators on:
 - Student support
 - Best practices
 - Innovation in teaching-learning

7. Sustainability and Future Plans

- Expand the initiative to include:
 - **More students (top 3 performers, not just top 1)**
 - **Interdisciplinary book rewards**
- Seek **institutional or alumni support** for funding
- Integrate with:
 - Library initiatives
 - Reading clubs
- Introduce:
 - **“Student Book Review Sessions”** based on awarded books

8. Conclusion

- The practice effectively transforms recognition into **academic empowerment**, making it both meaningful and sustainable. It not only rewards achievement but also nurtures **future scholars and responsible learners**.

9. Evidence of Success

- Improvement in **student academic performance**
- Increased **competition and motivation among students**
- Enhanced **reading habits beyond syllabus**
- Positive **student feedback and engagement**



Evidence

Photo 1: Awarding Book to 1st & 2nd Topper

Distribution of academic book to college topper by Principal, IQAC, Department-in-charge & Faculty.



Badari Krishnaveni- Regn. No. 72317505024 –SGPA: 9.28



Kella Devi -Regn. No. 72317505032 –SGPA: 9.08

Photo 2: Group Photo with Awardees

Recognizing meritorious students in the Department in the presence of Principal, Vice Principal, IQAC Coordinator, Academic Co-ordinator cum Department-in-charge and other teaching faculty.



Document 1 : Evidence Placeholders

- **Document 1: List of Awarded Students (2025-2026)**
- **Course : III B.Sc. Semesyster V**
- **Group: Zoology Major**
- **Lecturer-in-charge: Dr. P. RUPA VANI**

S.no	Regn. no.	Name	SGPA	Rank
1	72317505024	Badari Krishnaveni	9.28	1 (College Level)
2	72317505032	Kella Devi	9.02	2 (College Level)

Document 2: University Result Copy Highlighting Topper

	TH85-HS-310E	TH85-HS-310B	TH85-HS-310C	TH85-HS-3111	TH85-HS-31141	TH85-HS-A613	TH85-HS-A614	PR85-HS-310E	PR85-HS-310B	PR85-HS-310C	PR85-HS-3111	PR85-HS-A613	SGPA
723117505023	A+	A+	A	A	A+	B+	O	O	O	O	O	O	8.88
Name of the Candidate : YARRA BUTCHAMMA												CGPA1: 2: 3:	
	TH85-HS-314T	TH85-HS-314B	TH85-HS-314E	TH85-HS-3151	TH85-HS-31141	TH85-HS-A631	TH85-HS-A632	PR85-HS-314T	PR85-HS-314B	PR85-HS-314E	PR85-HS-3151	PR85-HS-A631	SGPA
723117505024	O	A	A+	A+	A+	A+	A+	O	O	O	O	O	9.23
Name of the Candidate : BADARI KRISHNAVENI												CGPA1: 2: 3:	
	TH85-HS-314T	TH85-HS-314B	TH85-HS-314E	TH85-HS-3151	TH85-HS-31141	TH85-HS-A631	TH85-HS-A632	PR85-HS-314T	PR85-HS-314B	PR85-HS-314E	PR85-HS-3151	PR85-HS-A631	SGPA
723117505025	A+	A	A+	A+	B+	A	B+	O	O	O	O	O	8.62
Name of the Candidate : BAITAPALLI KEERTHIKA												CGPA1: 2: 3:	
	TH85-HS-314T	TH85-HS-314B	TH85-HS-314E	TH85-HS-3151	TH85-HS-31141	TH85-HS-A631	TH85-HS-A632	PR85-HS-314T	PR85-HS-314B	PR85-HS-314E	PR85-HS-3151	PR85-HS-A631	SGPA
723117505026	B+	B	A+	B+	B+	A	B+	P	P	P	A	O	7.15
Name of the Candidate : BEVARA UMA												CGPA1: 2: 3:	
	TH85-HS-314T	TH85-HS-314B	TH85-HS-314E	TH85-HS-3151	TH85-HS-31141	TH85-HS-A631	TH85-HS-A632	PR85-HS-314T	PR85-HS-314B	PR85-HS-314E	PR85-HS-3151	PR85-HS-A631	SGPA
723117505027	A	B+	A	A	B+	A	B+	B+	B+	A+	O	O	7.88
Name of the Candidate : CHANDAPU ANJALI DEVI												CGPA1: 2: 3:	
	TH85-HS-314T	TH85-HS-314B	TH85-HS-314E	TH85-HS-3151	TH85-HS-31141	TH85-HS-A631	TH85-HS-A632	PR85-HS-314T	PR85-HS-314B	PR85-HS-314E	PR85-HS-3151	PR85-HS-A631	SGPA
723117505028	B+	B+	B+	B+	B+	B+	B+	B+	B	P	B	O	6.96
Name of the Candidate : CHEEMALA LAXMANA RAO												CGPA1: 2: 3:	

	TH85-HS-314T	TH85-HS-314B	TH85-HS-314E	TH85-HS-3151	TH85-HS-31141	TH85-HS-A631	TH85-HS-A632	PR85-HS-314T	PR85-HS-314B	PR85-HS-314E	PR85-HS-3151	PR85-HS-A631	SGPA
723117505029	A	B+	B+	B+	B+	B+	B+	B	B+	C	B+	O	7.19
Name of the Candidate : DUVYANA GOWRI												CGPA1: 2: 3:	
	TH85-HS-314T	TH85-HS-314B	TH85-HS-314E	TH85-HS-3151	TH85-HS-31141	TH85-HS-A631	TH85-HS-A632	PR85-HS-314T	PR85-HS-314B	PR85-HS-314E	PR85-HS-3151	PR85-HS-A631	SGPA
723117505030	B+	C	F	B+	A	B+	B+	B+	B+	P	A+	O	
Name of the Candidate : GUNANA CHANDRASEKHAR												CGPA1: 2: 3:	
	TH85-HS-314T	TH85-HS-314B	TH85-HS-314E	TH85-HS-3151	TH85-HS-31141	TH85-HS-A631	TH85-HS-A632	PR85-HS-314T	PR85-HS-314B	PR85-HS-314E	PR85-HS-3151	PR85-HS-A631	SGPA
723117505031	B+	C	B+	A	B+	B+	B+	B	C	P	B	O	6.81
Name of the Candidate : KAARTHKA LAVANYA												CGPA1: 2: 3:	
	TH85-HS-314T	TH85-HS-314B	TH85-HS-314E	TH85-HS-3151	TH85-HS-31141	TH85-HS-A631	TH85-HS-A632	PR85-HS-314T	PR85-HS-314B	PR85-HS-314E	PR85-HS-3151	PR85-HS-A631	SGPA
723117505032	A+	A+	O	A+	A	A+	A	A+	O	A+	O	O	9.00
Name of the Candidate : KELLA DEVI												CGPA1: 2: 3:	
	TH85-HS-314T	TH85-HS-314B	TH85-HS-314E	TH85-HS-3151	TH85-HS-31141	TH85-HS-A631	TH85-HS-A632	PR85-HS-314T	PR85-HS-314B	PR85-HS-314E	PR85-HS-3151	PR85-HS-A631	SGPA
723117505033	P	B+	F	C	B+	B+	B+	C	A	B+	B+	O	
Name of the Candidate : KONGARANI PURNIMA												CGPA1: 2: 3:	
	TH85-HS-314T	TH85-HS-314B	TH85-HS-314E	TH85-HS-3151	TH85-HS-31141	TH85-HS-A631	TH85-HS-A632	PR85-HS-314T	PR85-HS-314B	PR85-HS-314E	PR85-HS-3151	PR85-HS-A631	SGPA
723117505034	B	B	B	B+	A	B+	B	B	C	C	A+	O	6.73
Name of the Candidate : KOPPISETTI PURNA CHANDU												CGPA1: 2: 3:	
	TH85-HS-314T	TH85-HS-314B	TH85-HS-314E	TH85-HS-3151	TH85-HS-31141	TH85-HS-A631	TH85-HS-A632	PR85-HS-314T	PR85-HS-314B	PR85-HS-314E	PR85-HS-3151	PR85-HS-A631	SGPA
723117505035	B+	B+	A	B+	B+	A	B+	C	B+	B	A	O	7.35
Name of the Candidate : KUMUDI GANGA BHAVANI												CGPA1: 2: 3:	
	TH85-HS-314T	TH85-HS-314B	TH85-HS-314E	TH85-HS-3151	TH85-HS-31141	TH85-HS-A631	TH85-HS-A632	PR85-HS-314T	PR85-HS-314B	PR85-HS-314E	PR85-HS-3151	PR85-HS-A631	SGPA
723117505036	B+	B+	B+	A	A	A	B+	B+	A	B	A+	O	7.58
Name of the Candidate : MAJJI HANSI												CGPA1: 2: 3:	

Document 3: Bills/Receipts of Purchased Books



Financial support : Dr. P. RUPA VANI, Dept.-in-charge of Zoology