How Not to Become a Wildlife Conservationist and leave it to experts by Randy Collins

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With thousands of programs being made and aired religiously on wild animals, many people want to become self-proclaimed wildlife conservationists overnight. Well, let me tell you something, it's not as easy as it looks. Crazy it might sound, after watching these kinds of shows on my TV, there was a burning to desire to catch some insect or an animal in my backyard and show my presentation skills to my buddies. Voila, there was a snake in the garden, but the problem was getting to know what type of a snake it was. I had no clue if it was venomous or harmless. The way my mom reacted one would think that it must have come from out of this world. I still don't know what snake was that.

Yes, we all have that instinct, don't we? We wish to explore nature, simply because that is where we belong. Consider the way we are living today; in concrete jungles, peak hour gridlocks, having simulated entertainment, narrow eyesight and potbellies. God must have thought, "Have I made a mistake, after all?" So do we ever know how to creep out of the sack and go do something natural? We are so caught up with technology that being natural sounds haunting or terrifying to many. If what scientists say is true that man evolved from apes, then we have no reason to worry because we are just updated versions of them. That very fact could be one of the reasons why animals run like crazy when they spot humans.

There has got to be a beginning to everything. This big blue ball seen from the outer space called 'The Earth' is the only home that we have. Mars could be a better place in the future, but things have not gone worse on earth; not yet. Gear up and let yourself loose in this vast globe, you will surely end up in some place that you can explore. First things first, decide on what you're going to do. To be a wildlife expert, you need to know something that you don't know already. Simply put, prepare to learn new things like foreign languages, if you'd want to go abroad, like to Africa, living in the jungle, and obviously, running, because sometimes you get chased.

Looking at it from a layman's point of view, life on earth can be classified into two, humans and animals. If you see a creature that doesn't look human, you can for sure decide that it's an animal. If you see an animal that looks human, better keep a safe distance, there are all possibilities for you to get hurt. Just kidding. Whoa, there is one more kind. Insects!! Yeah, the ones that always disturb us and yet we never seem to care because of their puny size. Ironically, mosquitoes cause more number of deaths than snakes. Poor serpents, they get killed often for no reason. Psychology says people freak out the moment they look at a snake, even if it's dead. That must be serpentophobia or something. Worst case, it could be just a length of rope; fear can make you see things.

Anyways, hands-on knowledge is always better than theoretical knowledge. It's kind of like knowing the different ways of jumping in to the swimming pool, obviously with water in it, but never jumped once. So always learn from a wildlife guru who knows best. You don't get to see these guys on TV getting bitten by rattlers or alligators. It could be because these animals are so smart that they don't do it front of a camera. They just do a mock strike or charge. Yeah, sometimes they're caught on tape, but I wonder why always the videos are of low quality and shaky. It's funny though that sometimes the person shooting the video is so engrossed that he keeps filming even after getting attacked. Maybe there should be a new category - "Best Cinematography While under Attack." So, just remember to 'look before you leap into the wild'

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Randy Collins - About Author:
Randy Collins is a freelance writer. He believes that wild life conservation is best left to experts; however the important thing is to spread awareness which should go a long way in conservation of precious wild life. He keenly watches related programs aired by popular services like a Verizon FiOS TV.

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