

# HIGHWAY HAVOC: THE SILENT VICTIMS

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Road construction has an impact on wildlife because it isolates and changes populations and habitats, prevents species from migrating, and increases wildlife mortality. While travelling through the roads we can witness various animals killed in the road. The photographs which I have encountered on a daily basis at the campus further leads me to witness these on other roads too.

Let's take look into those photographs....



## Green Vine Snake

This green beauty was murdered on road towards campus. The snake is, mildly venomous with bright green colour and thereby allowing its camouflage. To better blend in, they may even sway back and forth, resembling the motion of branches in the breeze..



## Common Toad

Disembowelled creature which was brutally killed on the roadside of the campus. Toads frequently migrate during the breeding season, sometimes will leads to its death due to roadkills. The kill was found at night as they are migrates mostly at night.

## Common grass yellow

It was a victim of Hit and run case during its flight. Compared animals, due to vehicle collisions are less in butterflies. Among the larger ones, I have founded this smaller creatures later in the campus.



## Greater Coucal

The engrossment towards roadkills has leads me to this photograph during my field trip to Chembra Peak. Greater coucal is a large bird with deep red coloured eyes. In order to actively patrol the boundaries of their territories, they may perch on the ground which may becomes the cause for its roadkill.



## Shield-tailed snake



Even as an underground creature, he had to witness its death on a rear view mirror, which was later captured by my camera. Their behaviour of mimicking venomous snakes to escape from predators not even helps them to escape from roadkills.

## House Cat

Further insights into, roadkills brought me upon this domesticating one. The body was crumpled and crinkled which makes its difficult to identify



## Small indian civet

The body of civet with its protruding tongue and eyes clearly defines its painful death on a road at idukki. Road crossing behaviour and nocturnal activity makes it more vulnerable to roadkills.

