

# BUCEROS

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**BIBLIOGRAPHY OF PAPERS ON WETLANDS  
FROM THE**

***JOURNAL OF THE BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY***  
**(VOLUMES 1-40)**



*Bombay Natural History Society*

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## Editorial

The *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* was first published in 1886 and has reached its ninety-fifth volume. The Society's *Journal* has been documenting the natural history of the Indian subcontinent and some of the countries adjoining it. This issue of *Buceros* is an index of papers on wetlands from Volumes 1 to 40 of the *Journal*. Work on the indexing of the subsequent issues is in progress, and will be brought out in future issues of *Buceros*. We hope our readers will be:

To our sad faults, a little blind.  
To our small merits, very kind!  
(*Courtesy: Stray Feathers: A.O. Hume 1873*)



## INTRODUCTION

The *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* is now in its ninety-fifth volume. The genesis of the *Journal* was in 1886 (three years after the founding of the Bombay Natural History Society), when the need was felt to maintain a permanent record of the meetings held at the Society, where papers on natural history were read and discussed, specimens collected were exhibited or described and field accounts of hunters narrated. It would also keep outstation members in touch with the Society.

The first issue of the *Journal* (Vol. 1, No. 1) was published in January 1886 under the editorship of E.H. Aitken, well known for his classics *Behind the Bungalow*, *The Tribes on my Frontier* and *A Naturalist on the Prowl*. Aitken left the editorship within a year, and Volume 2 was brought out under the editorship of R.A. Sterndale and H.M. Phipson. Editorship of the *Journal* over the years, passed on to a legion of many other great personalities of Indian natural history, some of whom were N.B. Kinnear, W.S. Millard, Charles McCann, S.H. Prater and Sálím Ali.

The contributions to the *Journal* at first consisted largely of sporting and popular articles written mostly by members of the Society, who were generally observant sportsmen and field naturalists. The scope of these contributions steadily expanded, and serious scientific papers by acknowledged experts have now become a regular feature of its pages. The transformation of the *Journal* to a more technical treatise was a source of criticism from many of the members of the Society, who considered such write-ups 'too dry and high brow' for them. However, the attempts of the editors to cater to such readers once in a while, was greeted by an equal dose of protest from those who wanted the *Journal* to be more scientific and not 'descend down to the level of story telling'. To create a sort of balance, the Society started the publication of a popular, illustrated magazine for lay members in 1976, the *Hornbill*. The miscellaneous notes section in the *Journal* still retains the flavour of the old journals to some extent.

There had been proposals during the years to re-christen the *Journal* to *Hornbill* or one of

its Indian equivalents, *Garuda* for the sake of a shorter title. Another name suggested was *Buceros* (which is now the name of this newsletter!). There are well-known precedents for this kind of change in name, e.g., *The Auk*, which was earlier known as *The Journal of the American Ornithologists Union*. The proposal did not get sufficient support from the Society's members, one argument against it being that a name like *Hornbill* would make one assume the *Journal* to be an ornithological journal and not a natural history one (as it truly is). Thus the *Journal* bears the same name since the first issue.

The popularity and scientific prestige of the *Journal* can be gauged by the consistent demand for complete sets by various institutions, libraries and universities within the country and abroad. Most of the earlier volumes are either out of print or brittle with age, and due to financial constraints the volumes, instead of reprinting, have been reproduced in microfiche. Microfiche films of Volumes 1 to 64 are now available and stocks of the subsequent volumes are as now sufficient to meet a reasonable demand.

Indexing of papers in journals is essential for easy

reference and retrieval. The Society's *Journal* has been indexed to some extent. An author and subject index was done for volumes 1 to 63. This was followed by a title page and species index of volumes 64 to 71 and volumes 79, 80 and 82. For various reasons, the work was left incomplete. The next major indexing, species and region-wise, was by Aasheesh Pittie of the papers on birds from Volumes 1 to 90. The ENVIS Centre at the BNHS is involved in an on-going exercise of creating a database on the publications on birds and inland wetlands of the Indian subcontinent that have emanated from journals, books, theses and reports from India and abroad.

This issue of *Buceros* is an index of the publications on wetlands and their related flora and fauna of India (except bird related literature) of volumes 1 to 40 from the Society's *Journal*. It is organised on broad based subject heads, such as algae, aquatic vegetation, aquatic insects, fish, amphibians, reptiles and mammals. The references under each subject head are arranged alphabetically. Additionally, we have mentioned the site where the observation or study was done, in brackets at the end of each reference. At the end of

each subject head, there is a list of the countries, states (for India only) and geographical regions. These places have the numbers allotted to the references under each subject head. This allows one to easily locate all the references of a particular state

or region from the index, and one can further find the actual sites on scanning these references. Thus one can easily locate wetland related papers, author, subject and area-wise from this index.



The picture depicting E.H. Aitken, the first editor of the *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society*, gives a wrong impression of the person. *A good man in every sense, religious, broad minded, tolerant ... gentle and lovable ... a man without a single enemy. Aitken loved and was unwilling to hurt any animal, considering each to have a soul and character of its own.* He collected rarely and only when essential. Truly an example of an early conservationist – with a heart!



**BIBLIOGRAPHY OF PAPERS ON WETLANDS FROM THE  
JOURNAL OF THE BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY: VOLUMES 1 -  
40**

The references on wetland (inland, estuarine or marine) related publications in volumes 1-40\* of the *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* are listed below under various subject heads.

References on waterbird related papers are not been included in this bibliography as they will be brought out as a separate publication.

At the end of each reference, there is an additional entry of the site/sites (if any) on which the paper is based. The references under each subject head are arranged alphabetically and numbered in descending order. After the references under each head, there is a list of names of places (in alphabetical order), with numbers following them. These are the serial numbers of the reference in the bibliography. From these numbers, one can refer to the papers that pertain to a region, state or site. The subject heads or sections for the references are as follows:

Aquatic Vegetation	Freshwater or marine macrophytes, mangroves, algae and phytoplankton; also hydrophilous plants.
Crustaceans	Crabs, prawns, lobsters, barnacles, etc.
Molluscs	Aquatic snails, bivalves, cuttlefish, squid and octopus.
Insects	Aquatic insects, including those that have part of their life stages in water.
Other Invertebrates and primitive chordates	Nereids, leeches, earthworms, parasitic worms, corals, sponge, jellyfish, zooplankton and primitive chordates.
Fish	Freshwater, marine or brackish water species.
Amphibians	All aquatic or terrestrial amphibians.
Reptiles	Crocodile, water monitor, turtles/tortoises and aquatic snakes.
Mammals	Otter, fishing cat, dugong, dolphin, whale.
General	Broadbased accounts of wetland flora and fauna

**AQUATIC VEGETATION**

1. Allen, G.O. (1925). Notes on Charophytes from Gonda, U.P. Vol. 30(3): 589-599. (Gonda, Uttar Pradesh)

\* The index of references of volumes 41 onwards will appear in future issue of *Buceros*.

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3. Biswas, K.P. (1930). Contributions to our knowledge of the freshwater algae of Manipur, Assam. Vol. 34(1): 189-192. (Manipur, Assam).
4. Blatter, E. (1905). The mangrove of the Bombay Presidency and its biology. Vol. 16(4): 644-656. (Bombay Presidency, Arabian Sea).
5. Blatter, E. (1906). The pectinate organs of *Trapa bispinosa* Roxb. (Water Chestnut). Vol. 17(1): 84-88.
6. Blatter, E. (1908). On the flora of Kutch. Vol. 18(4): 756-777. (Kachchh, Gujarat).
7. Blatter, E. (1910). History of the sea coconut (*Lopoicea sechellarum* Labill). Vol. 19(4): 925-937. (Indian Ocean).
8. Blatter, E. (1934). Revision of the flora of the Bombay Presidency. Cyperaceae. Vol. 37(1): 15-35. (Bombay Presidency).
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18. Dixit, S.C. (1932). Some seagrasses from the Presidency of Bombay. Vol. 36(1): 284. (Bombay Presidency, Arabian Sea).
19. Ede, F.J. (1902). *Euryale ferox* (Nymphaeaceae). Vol. 14(3): 606. (Chatla Fen, Cachar, Assam).
20. Editors (1915). The Beda weed (Nile Lily) *Eichhornia speciosa* Solms. Vol. 23(3): 588-590. (Irrawaddy, Bassein, Myanmar).
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23. Hate, V.N. (1909). Two species of *Chara* from the Bombay island. Vol. 19(3): 762-763. (Matunga, Mumbai, Maharashtra).

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33. Woodrow, G.M. (1897). Plants of a Bombay swamp. Vol. 11(1): 88-94. (Mumbai, Maharashtra).

Andhra Pradesh – 21	Maharashtra - 14, 17, 23, 24, 28, 33
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Indian Ocean – 7	West Bengal – 2
Madhya Pradesh – 13	

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2. Annandale, N. (1908). The Bombay “Spiny Lobster”. Vol. 18(4): 927. (Maharashtra, Arabian Sea).
3. Annandale, N. (1923). Animal life of the Ganges. Vol. 29(3): 633-642. (Ganges river)
4. Ellison, B.C. & S.H. Prater. (1921). On some unusual contributions to the Society’s museum. Vol. 27(4): 966-967.
5. Gurney, R. (1921). Freshwater crustacea collected by a Dr. P.A. Buxton in Mesopotamia and Persia. Vol. 27(4): 835-843. (Iran, Iraq).
6. Hornell, J. (1922). Some commensals of Indian Alcyonarians and crabs. Vol. 28(3): 926-936. (Gulf of Mannar, Gulf of Kachchh, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat).
7. McCann, C. (1937). Notes on the Common Land Crab (*Barytelphusa guerini*) of Salsette Island. Vol. 39(3): 531-542. (Mumbai, Maharashtra).
8. Panikkar, N.K. (1937). The prawn industry of the Malabar coast. Vol. 39(2): 343-353. (Kerala, Arabian Sea).

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10. Powell, A. (1908). *Palinurus* or “the Spiny Lobster” of Bombay. Vol. 18(2): 360-389. (Mumbai, Maharashtra, Arabian Sea).
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Arabian Sea - 2, 8, 10, 11, 12	Iran - 5
Bangladesh - 9	Iraq - 5
Bay of Bengal - 1	Kerala - 8
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Gulf of Kachchh - 6	Persian Gulf - 13
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16. Hora, S.L. (1927). Animal life in torrential streams. Vol. 32(1): 111-126. (Khasi Hills, Cherrapunji, Meghalaya).
17. Hornell, J. (1922). Some commensals of Indian Alcyonarians and crabs. Vol. 28(3): 926-936. (Gulf of Mannar, Gulf of Kachchh, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat). See for mussels.
18. Hornell, J. (1922). Note on the operculum of the Turban shells. Vol. 28(4): 1143-1144. (Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu, Gulf of Mannar).
19. Marshall, H. (1922). List of mollusca of Rangoon. Vol. 28(3): 773-776. (Rangoon, Myanmar)
20. Maxwell, F.D. (1897). Pearl fishing in the Bassein district. Vol. 11(2): 317-320. (Bassein, Maharashtra).
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26. Pearson, J. (1927). The Ceylon pearl fisheries. Vol. 32(2): 274-280. (Gulf of Mannar, Sri Lanka).
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36. Sinclair, W.F. (1891). Shingle and shells from the beach of Umbargaum. Vol. 6(2): 262-263. (Umbargaum, Mumbai, Maharashtra).
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38. Stone, F.H.S. (1912). Horse Mackerel attacking jelly fish. Vol. 21(3): 1101. (Gulf of Aden).

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11. Fraser, F.C. (1919). Indian dragonflies. Part IV. Vol. 26(2): 488-517.

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33. Fraser, F.C. (1923). Dragonfly collecting in India. Part IV. Vol. 29(3): 741-756.
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104. Wilson, C.H.E. (1924). Good bag of freshwater shark (*Wallago attu*). Vol. 30(1): 231. (Kharaghoda, Ahmedabad district, Gujarat).

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