

The Society was founded in 1883 for the purpose of exchanging notes and observations on Zoology and exhibiting interesting specimens of animal life. Its funds are devoted to the advancement of the study of zoology and botany in the Oriental Region. The Society also promotes measures for conservation of nature.

Membership of the Society is open to persons of either sex and of any nationality, proposed and recommended by one or more members of the Society; and also to persons in their official capacity, scientific societies, institutions, clubs, etc. in corporate capacity.

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Members receive during a year four issues of *Hornbill*, the Society's popular publication. Life members receive, in addition, three issues of the *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society*, now in its 86th Volume.

Annual and other membership subscriptions.

Entrance Fees Rs. 50.00

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Ordinary individual membership Rs. 75.00

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Ordinary members may subscribe to the *Journal*; annual subscription Rs. 80.00 for members resident in India.

The first annual subscription of members elected in October, November, or December will extend to the 31st December of the year following the election.

Write to: The Honorary Secretary,
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Hornbill

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EDITORS

J.C. Daniel, J.S. Serrao,
I. Kehimkar & A. Varadachary

DESIGN

Amar Shekdar

all the major states were covered, except Bihar. The count is undertaken not only to provide population data, but also to create public awareness of the importance of wetland ecosystems and the waterfowl that depend on them. It has succeeded on both counts. Some results from the '89 count:

Giant Heron: Sightings have been scarce in recent years. This year, one was recorded in Assam and 2 in Gujarat. Two more records (5 individuals in Madhya Pradesh, 6 in Maharashtra) have yet to be confirmed.

Siberian Crane: 22 at the Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur, and a single bird in the Karera Bustard Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh.

Marbled Teal: 14 were seen; sightings of another 30 in Tamil Nadu (which is far south of its normal range) have yet to be confirmed.

Baer's Pochard: It is possible that it does occur in numbers in the northeast states. 3173 were reported from Assam and 15 from Tripura.

Stork arrives in rhino village

The rhino reintroduction programme, at the Dudwa National Park has met with mixed success since it began in 1985. But with 3 calves born this year (the first births since '87) the Project Rhino director, Mr. R.P. Singh, is hopeful about the future.

The programme started with 5 rhinos being airlifted from the Pobitara Wildlife Sanctuary, Assam, of which three survived. Four more



Field biologist in the rhino enclosure — the hard work pays off.

were brought from Nepal. The loss of one calf at the end of 1987, supposedly killed by a tiger, and the death of an adult male in a territorial battle with a younger male, seemed to set the project back. With the new births, there are now 9 rhinos in the 27 sq.km, electrically fenced-in enclosure: 1 male, 5 females and 3 calves. However, this nucleus of 6 adults rhinos is much too small. It is hoped that the target originally planned — release of 30 animals within the enclosure — is reached soon.

Wetlands Directory

The IUCN has published a Directory of Asian Wetlands, consisting of 24 national reports compiled over a 3 year period. Over 900 sites are described, along with their respective wetland values (water storage, flood control, coastal protection, fisheries and wildlife). It concludes that an alarming 85% of the sites surveyed are threatened with destruction, or at least significant