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Front Matter for the Proceedings of the Back Bay Ecological Symposium

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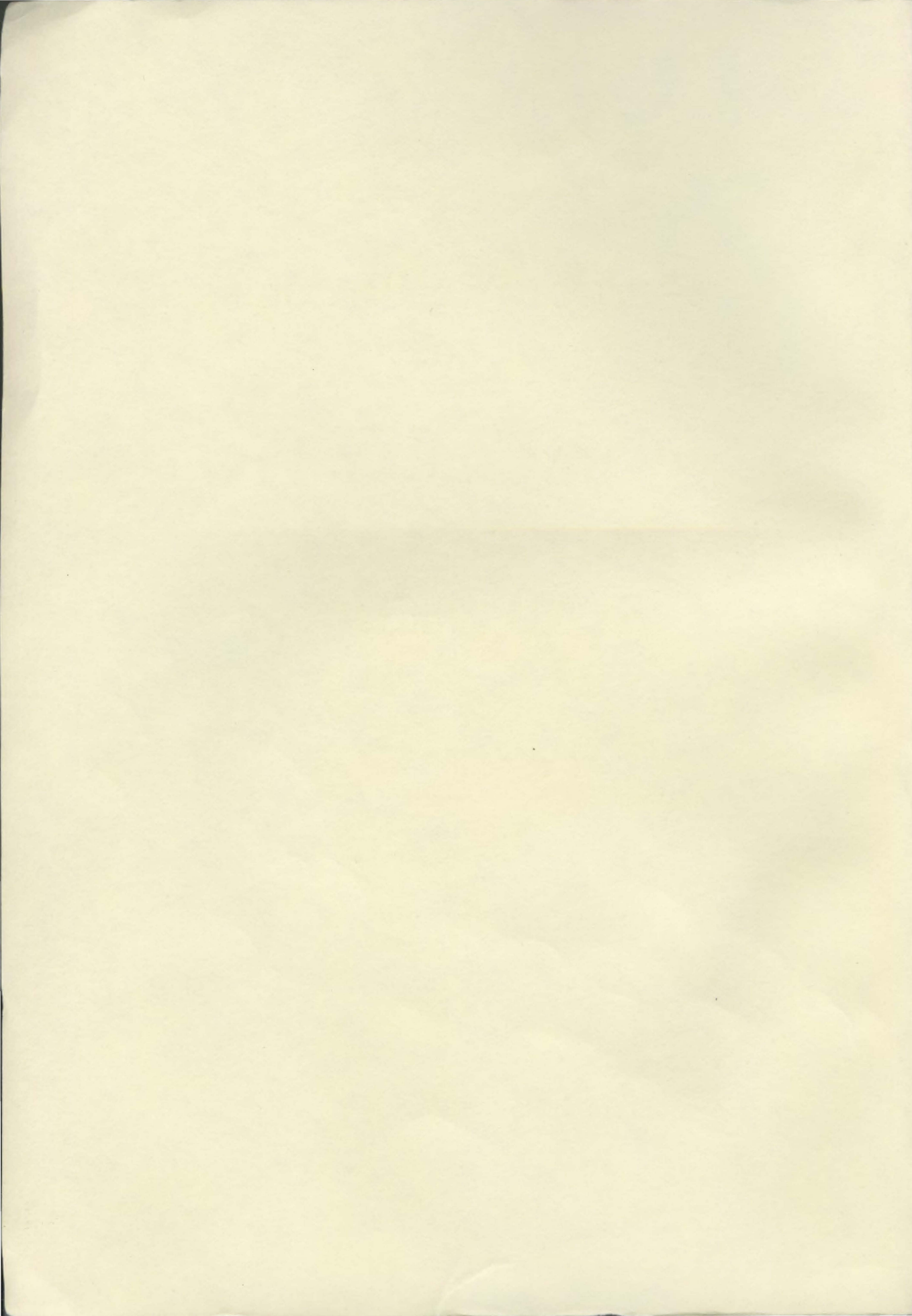
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**Proceedings
of the
BACK BAY
ECOLOGICAL
SYMPOSIUM**

Editors

Harold G. Marshall
and
Mitchell D. Norman



**Proceedings of the
BACK BAY
ECOLOGICAL SYMPOSIUM**

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PREFACE

Back Bay represents a unique and dynamic habitat where the influence of natural phenomena has been augmented by the impact of an increasing amount of human activity. Numerous studies and articles about Back Bay have documented these events over the years; however, there has been little past effort to assemble this work in a single volume or under one theme. It was during an early morning collection trip to Back Bay that the concept and value of bringing together individuals interested in this region was first discussed.

This was in February, 1987, and although cold and windy, the broad splendor of this natural resource provided the appropriate background for the steps that followed. At that time, the two of us and Ron Southwick recognized the diversity of interests and studies that were associated with Back Bay, but were concerned about the need to bring together data regarding the Bay and to have current projects discussed in an open forum.

This early discussion eventually resulted in the steps leading to the Back Bay Ecological Symposium held in November, 1990. We established three major objectives for this symposium. These were:

1. to provide an opportunity for current investigators and other interested parties to discuss together their studies and concerns about Back Bay;
2. to publish the proceedings of this Symposium, which would emphasize water quality, fauna, flora and management topics so this publication could be a basic reference source for future investigators of this habitat; and
3. to encourage and stimulate more cooperative and coordinated ecological studies of this habitat in the future.

With the realization of this proceedings volume, we want to express our thanks to the contributors of this work and to all the participants of the Symposium for their interest and enthusiasm. We also want to acknowledge the financial support provided by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and the College of Sciences at Old Dominion University, plus the facilities provided by the Virginia Marine Science Museum in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

July, 1991

Harold G. Marshall
Mitchell D. Norman

CONTENTS

Historical Perspectives of Back Bay, Virginia	1
<i>Barbara M. Henley</i>	

Description of Study Area	4
<i>Mitchell D. Norman</i>	

I. WATER QUALITY

Salinity and Secchi Disc Records for Back Bay, Virginia (1925-1989).	11
<i>Mitchell D. Norman and Ronald Southwick</i>	

Light Attenuation in Back Bay, Virginia.	20
<i>Virginia Carter and N.B. Rybicki</i>	

Nutrient and Total Suspended Solids Data for Back Bay, (1986-1989).	29
<i>Mitchell D. Norman and Ronald Southwick</i>	

Rates of Sediment Accumulation, Bioturbation and Resuspension in Back Bay, Virginia, a Coastal Lagoon.	42
<i>Donald J.P. Swift, George T.F. Wong and Alan W. Niedoroda</i>	

Multivariate Analysis of Spatiotemporal Water Quality Patterns of Back Bay, Virginia.	60
<i>Raymond W. Alden III and Walter I. Priest III</i>	

II. FAUNA

Community Structure of the Macrobenthos in Back Bay, Virginia.	99
<i>Michael F. Lane and Daniel M. Dauer</i>	

Zooplankton Populations in Back Bay, Virginia.	128
<i>Harold G. Marshall, Ronald Southwick and Bruce Wagoner</i>	

Impact of Salinity Changes on Fish Populations in Back Bay, 1950-1989.	138
<i>Ronald Southwick and Mitchell D. Norman</i>	

Rare Animals of Back Bay, Virginia Beach, Virginia.	148
<i>Christopher A. Pague and Kurt A. Buhlmann</i>	

The Amphibians and Reptiles of Back Bay, Virginia.	159
<i>Christopher A. Pague and Joseph C. Mitchell</i>	

The History and Success of the Wood Duck Nest Box Program at Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge.	167
<i>William H. Hegge</i>	

Ecology of Freshwater Turtles in Back Bay, Virginia.	183
<i>Joseph C. Mitchell and Christopher A. Pague</i>	

Waterfowl Trends in Back Bay, Virginia from 1954 to 1990.	188
<i>Fairfax H. Settle and Donald J. Schwab</i>	

III. FLORA

Phytoplankton Populations in Back Bay, Virginia.	201
<i>Harold G. Marshall</i>	
The Phytogeographical Significance of Some Rare Plants at Back Bay.	215
<i>D.A. Knepper, J.B. Wright and L.J. Musselman</i>	
The Marshes of Back Bay, Virginia.	222
<i>Walter I. Priest III and Sharon Dewing</i>	
The Rare Plants of False Cape State Park, Virginia Beach City, Virginia.	249
<i>J. Christopher Ludwig, Joan B. Wright and Nancy E. Van Alstine</i>	
A Catalog of Vascular Flora of the Back Bay Watershed.	257
<i>Joan B. Wright</i>	
Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Trends of Back Bay, Virginia.	265
<i>Donald J. Schwab, Fairfax H. Settle, Otto Halstead and Richard L. Ewell</i>	

IV. MANAGEMENT

The Currituck Sound Drainage Basin: Perceived Issues and Prospective Management Alternatives.	273
<i>Rebecca R. Rideout and David A. Adams</i>	
Water Table Management.	286
<i>Louis E. Cullipher</i>	
Refuge Management: Committed to the Future.	295
<i>Anthony D. Leger</i>	

V. POSTER ABSTRACTS

Assessment of Organic and Metal Contaminants in Lower Back Bay and Upper Currituck Sound.	301
<i>Kate Benkert</i>	
Refuge Land Acquisition: Helping Preserve Back Bay's Wildlife Heritage.	302
<i>Julia Herrick, Ben Mathias and Janet Taylor</i>	
Environmental Education: A Chance for the Future.	303
<i>Ben Mathias, Janet Taylor and Julia Herrick</i>	
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Back Bay Initiative: Goals and Objectives.	304
<i>David A. Stillwell and Linda S. George</i>	
Rx for Success at Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge: Take Two Committed Partners, add Water.	305
<i>Janet Taylor, Julia Herrick and Ben Mathias</i>	