

Articles for Country-Side: Notes for Contributors

Country-Side welcomes your articles! Our contributors come from a wide range of backgrounds and some may be less familiar than others with the conventions of academic writing. Even if the article you're writing isn't particularly academic in nature, there are some relevant conventions that Country-Side hopes you can follow.

Names - the basic rules

The first time an animal or plant is mentioned, it should be given both its scientific (or taxonomic) name and its common name (if it has one). It doesn't matter which way round you do this – both Gray Wolf (*Canis lupus*) and *Canis lupus* (Gray Wolf) are equally acceptable. As in this example, scientific names should be written in *italics* with the first word capitalised (*Canis lupus*). Common names should be capitalised each time they are mentioned as in, Gray Wolf. Note that the name given second is usually put into brackets, as it has been in all the examples above.

After the first mention, you can use either name but you don't need to use both. Which you use is up to you, but stick to one or the other.

References

In essence, 'referencing' simply means acknowledging someone else's work or ideas when you use them in your article. There are various ways of doing this, but Country-Side favours the so called 'Harvard system'. Some Country-Side articles won't be the kind that require references, but if yours does, don't be put off if you aren't used to referencing – it's simple (but tedious).

Here are the basic rules of the Harvard system:

1. In-text Citations:

When you use someone else's ideas, paraphrase their work, or directly quote them, include the author's last name and the publication year in brackets within your text.

Example: It has been claimed that pigs can fly (Smith, 2019). *Or* Smith (2019) claimed that pigs can fly.

Include page numbers if you are directly quoting from an author's text.

Example: Smith (2019, p. 45) states: "Pigs can fly. Honest. I've seen them do it".

For works with multiple authors, list all the authors the first time and then if there are three or more authors use "et al." for subsequent citations.

Example: Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young (2019) becomes Crosby et al. (2019), but Simon and Garfunkel (2019) stay as Simon and Garfunkel (2019).

When citing a source you found within another source (a 'secondary source'), cite both sources. Include the original source and "as cited in" the secondary source.

Example: Smith (2019), as cited in Jones (2020), claims that pigs can fly.

2. Reference List:

At the end of your article, create a reference list alphabetically by the author's last name. Include all the sources you cited in your article.

Italicize or underline the titles of books, journals, and other longer works. Use quotation marks for titles of articles, chapters, and shorter pieces.

Format for citing books: Author's last name, Initials. (Year). Title of the book. Publisher.

Example: Whiston, K.R. and Walton, I. (1934). *Fly Fishing*. Routledge.

Format for citing articles: Author's last name, Initials. (Year). Title of the article. Title of the Journal, volume number (issue or part number if there is one), page range.

Example: Whiston, K.R. (1953). "The biggest old trout I ever caught." *Fishing Times*, 15(3), 121-125.

Format for citing web sources: Author's last name, Initials. (Year). Title of the web page or document. Retrieved (date retrieved) from URL.

Example: Tomm, J., Dicke, K. and Harrie, L.M. (2020). *How to Cite Websites*. Retrieved 30 Feb 2021 from <https://www.example.com/cite>.

The points above cover the basics of naming and referencing in a *Country-Side* article. Should you have a query or need information about something not covered here, answers can be found in many places on the internet. For example, many universities publish freely-available guides to referencing and the use of scientific and common names, and Wikipedia's "Manual of Style/Organisms" is also a comprehensive and useful source of guidance.

Alternatively, if you are unsure feel free to contact the Editor country-side@bna-naturalists.org