

# THE BRODIE CLUB



ROYAL ONTARIO  
MUSEUM OF ZOOLOGY

## THE 1,052nd MEETING OF THE BRODIE CLUB

The 1,052nd meeting of the Brodie Club was held at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, December 13, 2011 in Room 432 of the Ramsay Wright Laboratories of the University of Toronto.

Chair: Rose Addison  
Secretary: Kevin Seymour

The meeting was attended by 30; 23 members and 8 guests.

### **Roll Call:**

**Present:** E. Addison, R. Addison, Bertin, Bryant, Curry, Dunn, Eadie, A. Falls, B. Falls, D. Hussell, J. Hussell, Iron, A. Juhola, H. Juhola, Larsen, Machin, Pittaway, Reading, J. Rising, T. Rising, Seymour, Slessor, Tasker.

**Regrets:** Abraham, J. Bendell, Y. Bendell, Bodsworth, Bousfield, Crins, Gray, Norm Martin, Norma Martin, McAndrews, Strickland, Tomlinson.

**Guests:** Sachi Schott, guest of David Hussell; David Beadle, John Cayley, Victoria Cayley, and Kristen Martyn, guests of George Bryant; David Dunham, Cay Mills and Alex Mills, guests of Jim and Trudy Rising.

**Minutes:** There were no comments on minutes of the previous meeting, which were accepted without a formal vote.

### **Announcements and New Business:**

#### **Program Committee**

Bruce Falls announced speakers for upcoming meetings:

Jan. 17	Megan Frederickson	Ants, Plants and Tropical Forest
Feb. 21	Brock Fenton	The World Through a Bat's Ear
Mar. 20	Bill Crins	Birding in Northern Peru
Apr. 17	Don Sutherland	The Sutton Ridges
May 1 or 8	TBA	
Field Trip	???	

Dates for remainder of 2012 meetings are Sept. 18, Oct. 16, Nov. 20, and Dec. 11.

## Archive Committee (Dunn)

Mini bios are due from members please.

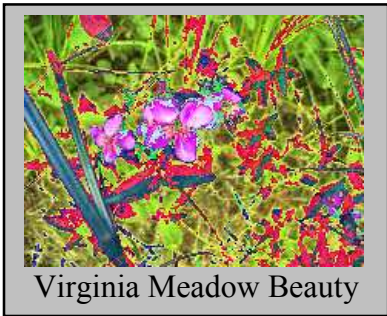
### Other business arising

- Norma Martin sustained hip injuries. Moved by B. Falls and seconded by E. Addison to send bouquet of flowers from Brodie Club to wish her a speedy recovery.
- Fred Bodsworth is also recovering at a rehabilitation facility.
- H. Juhola circulated a petition to remove the Snapping Turtle from the hunting list for Ontario.

### PROGRAM

The December program consisted of four short talks by club members on topics of their choice. This was organized on short notice due to illness of the planned speaker (Brock Fenton). Presentations were in alphabetical order: Bryant, Curry, Eadie and B. Falls.

### Vignettes of Natural History by George Bryant



George Bryant showed photos of a number of species including (list not complete): baby Spotted turtles and Massasauga rattlesnakes in Muskoka; a visit to the Gaspé peninsula in Quebec in an unsuccessful search for a Bicknell's Thrush; Gannets at Percé Rock; discovery of a second-brooded early hairstreak butterfly; horned clubtail dragonfly; southern flying squirrel; southern bog lemming; moles; bark lice; Atlantic Coastal Plain plants found in Ontario such as Virginia meadow-beauty, an extensive raft

of floating heart, panicled and Virginia bartonias.

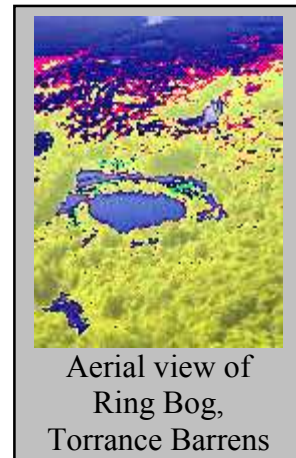
George flew over the Torrance Barrens this summer and showed a photo of a ring bog, not far from his cottage. There have been no forest fires for decades and the vegetation is closing in. PH of the water in the bog is different.

George spoke of expansion of the southern flying squirrel (*Glaucomys volans*) and how the smaller size (akin to a chipmunk) and white chin differentiate it from the northern species (*Glaucomys sabrinus*).

The highlight of George's summer was a gift from his cat. Bog lemmings are listed as a mammal of the Torrance Barrens. George has trapped for them... unsuccessfully. However, the specimen was delivered by the cat was confirmed to be a bog lemming by Mark Peck at the ROM using teeth.

George posed a few queries to members....

- names of "viral" photos of moths which appeared at various times during his presentation
- an explanation of why hairy tailed and star nosed moles are often found expired
- an explanation of meaning of etchings in gneiss along the Ontario Northland Railroad line



### Carden Alvar Visit by Bob Curry

Various species of interest noted during a recent visit to the Carden Alvar were shown. These included birds: Grasshopper Sparrow and Upland Sandpiper; plants: prairie smoke, wood lily, *Platanthera* orchids, harebells, Indian paintbrush, mossy stonecrop (invasive); butterflies: Indian skipper, tawny crescent; snakes: ringneck snake and ribbon snake; dragonflies: Hine's emerald.



**HINE'S EMERALD  
DRAGONFLY**



**FRINGED ORCHID**

### Trip to Patagonia, the Falkland Islands, South Georgia & Antarctica by Sandra Eadie

Sandra traveled to Antarctica during January 2010.



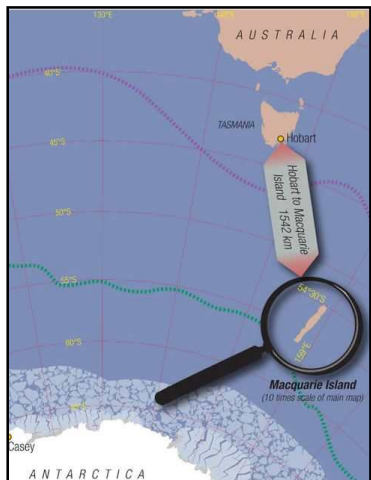
Although primarily a birding trip (94 different species during the trip), a number of marine



mammals, including six species of seal as well as South American sea lion, four large whale species and three dolphin species were observed. Birds of note were: eight species of penguins including Emperor Penguin, Magellanic Penguin (a burrow dweller); three species of Albatross, Crested Duck, three species of Skua, two species of Giant-Petrel, five species of Petrel including Antarctic and Cape Petrels, two species of Prions, four species of Caracara including Striated Caracara and Snowy Sheathbill.



### Trip to MacQuarrie Island in 1964 by Bruce Falls



Bruce showed slides of a visit to the same part of the world as Sandra visited, but almost 50 years earlier. Macquarie Island is about half way between New Zealand and Antarctica. It is treeless, has no sheer cliffs, is high in the middle and is several kilometers long. Landing is difficult because of rocky reefs. Ships anchor and passengers travel to the island by seagoing duck.

Anne and Bruce had an opportunity to visit the island courtesy of Robert Carrick of the Australian Wildlife Service.

Species of note: Royal Penguin colony in the uplands, Rockhopper Penguins, McQuarrie Shag, introduced Weka (rail), Kelp Gull, Antarctic Skua, Southern Giant-Petrel, Light-mantled Albatross, Wandering Albatross.



Trevor Gadd with  
Wandering Albatross

This talk concluded with a delightful set of recordings of both Elephant Seals and the din of a Royal Penguin colony made by Bruce on the island.



Bruce "interviews" Penguin

They saw defunct digesters used by the oil industry to boil down penguins in the late 1800s. More information about this can be found at

[http://www.parks.tas.gov.au/fahan\\_mi\\_shipwrecks/journals/Sealers/sshatch9.pdf](http://www.parks.tas.gov.au/fahan_mi_shipwrecks/journals/Sealers/sshatch9.pdf)

### **NOTES & OBSERVATIONS**

*D. Hussell:* Data on a geolocator recovered from a Wheatear in Iqualuit has shown that this bird flew 3500 km in 3.5 days to NW England or Ireland, then an additional 4000 km to the coast of Mauritania.

*E. Addison:* Evening and Pine Grosbeaks were noted and six observations of wolves feeding on moose carcass during five days spent moose hunting NW of Thunder Bay in late November.

*E. Larsen:* More comments on Socoloptera (Bark Lice): they like lichens and she found them also in a Potter's Wasp nest (taken there by wasps?)

*H. Juhola:* Where do the House Finches go in winter? Answer: some stay but some migrate to south-central USA.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:25 so members could enjoy the numerous Christmas goodies supplied by members!

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

On 30 December 2011 08:50, Mandy Martin wrote the following update on Club member, Norma Martin:

Hello!

Mom has become the "poster girl" for her Belleville recovery wing. The plan now is for her release home Friday, Jan. 6, four weeks after the accident.

There will be a hospital bed brought in plus homecare assigned to help

her with bathing, etc., in the initial weeks.  
She will have a fixed walker, a wheelchair (sized to fit her) and go from there. No driving, of course.  
She still cannot put any weight on her right leg. That will probably come at the six-week mark with the doctor's okay. She will then have some painful days as she works on the physio and exercises.  
The physio people say there is no reason at all that she will not be 100% her former self by the spring. Mom's looking forward to playing tennis.  
There is assistance coming in to help with housework and meal prep.  
Adjustments will be made as needs become evident.  
Thanks for your support! It means the world to Mom.  
Cheers,  
Mandy (Martin)

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, January 17 at 7:30 pm in Room 432 of the Ramsay Wright Zoological Laboratories. The speaker will be Megan Frederickson, Assistant Professor at EEB, U. of T. Her topic is "Ants, Plants, and Tropical Forest".