THE BRODIE CLUB

ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM OF ZOOLOGY

THE 1,058th MEETING OF THE BRODIE CLUB

The 1,058th meeting of the Brodie Club was held at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, September 18, 2012 in Room 432 of the Ramsay Wright Laboratories of the University of Toronto.

Chair: B. Falls
Secretary: R. Addison

The meeting was attended by 30; 28 members and 2 guests.

Roll Call:
Present:, E. Addison, R. Addison, Beadle, J. Bendell, Y. Bendell, Boswell, Bousfield, Bryant, Coady, Crins, Currie, Curry, Dunham (new member), Dunn, A. Falls, B. Falls, D. Hussell, J. Hussell, Iron, Larsen, Machin, Martyn (new member), McAndrews, Pittaway, T. Rising, Seymour, Slessor, Speakman.

Regrets: Abraham, Bertin, Eadie, Gray, A. Juhola, H. Juhola, Lumsden, Reading, J. Rising, Strickland, Sutherland, Tasker, Tomlinson, Young.

Guests: John Carley, guest of George Bryant and Sharon Hick, guest of J. McAndrews.

Minutes: Minutes of the June 2012 Field Trip were moved for approval by Dunn and seconded by Bryant.

Announcements and New Business

- Ann Falls announced two new members of the club; David Dunham and Kristen Martyn. They were welcomed by the membership.
- Bruce Falls announced that the speaker at the October meeting [October 16] will be club member Don Sutherland, an ecologist with MNR. His topic is The Sutton Ridges.
- Bruce Falls reminded members of annual elections to be held during the October meeting. Please consider volunteering to serve on any of the committees. Here is the **2011-2012** list:
  Secretary: Rose Addison with assistance by Ed Addison, Paul Aird, George Bryant, Ricky Dunn, Trudy Rising, Kevin Seymour.
  Treasurer: Aarne Juhola.
  Membership: Bill Crins, Ann Falls, Kevin Seymour and Trudy Rising.

Program: Bruce Falls, Ed Addison, George Bryant, Hugh Currie, Jim Rising.
FON representative: Rose and Ed Addison.
Archives: Ricky Dunn, Sandra Eadie and Kevin Seymour.
Refreshments: Oliver Bertin, Ann Falls, Trudy Rising.
Field Trip: unpopulated – organized by Crins and Sutherland

Membership Committee

The membership committee enthusiastically endorses and has forwarded an application for membership from Martyn Obbard. Marty is known to many members of the Brodie Club. He has spoken to the club twice, once on black bears and once on polar bears, and has attended other times as well. He recently enjoyed the field trip to Peter's Woods.

Martyn Ernest Obbard

Born: Leven, Fife, Scotland, 1946

Memberships: International Association for Bear Research and Management, Arctic Institute of North America, The Wildlife Society

Interests: reptiles and amphibians, carnivores (especially bears), carnivore conservation, human-wildlife conflict; canoeing; nature photography; family history research

Education and Work History: Undergraduate degrees in Zoology and Education at University of Western Ontario; 3 years as Secondary School science teacher; M.Sc. and Ph.D. in Wildlife Ecology at University of Guelph (behaviour and population ecology of common snapping turtle in Algonquin Park, respectively). I joined the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources in 1984 to work in the Fur Management Section. As a member of a team lead by Milan Novak, senior editor, I was scientific editor for 'Wild Furbearer Management and Conservation in North America' which won TWS's publication award in 1989. I joined OMNR's research section in 1989 to work with George Kolenosky on a study of black bears in the Boreal forest near Chapleau. When George retired in 1994, I replaced him as OMNR's research scientist studying black bears and polar bears.

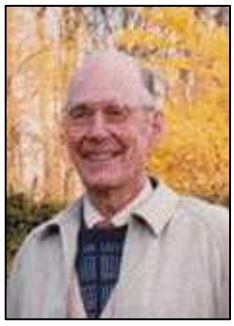
Influences: My maternal grandmother was the first to awaken an interest in natural history in me. Since my father had joined the British Navy in early 1939 he had enlisted for a regular term, and with war service was not demobilized until 1953. As a result, my mother and I lived with her parents during my early years. Beginning at age 3 or 4, my grandmother would take me on walks to Letham Glen, a protected area on the outskirts of Leven, Scotland where she collected 'leaf mould' for her roses. Like many young boys in Britain, I had a collection of bird's eggs (frowned upon now, of course). My family emigrated to Canada when I was 10. We moved to Elliot Lake in northern Ontario, and fairly soon thereafter we were 'adopted' by a man who had been a guide near Algonquin Park in the 1930s and 1940s. He taught my parents and me how to camp, fish, and enjoy natural history. At Western I was greatly influenced by Charlie MacInnes and David Scott. In 1967, I worked as field assistant on Charlie's goose projects at the McConnell River in then N.W.T. south of Eskimo Point (now Arviat) on the coast of Hudson Bay. I never lost my love of tundra habitat. Dave Scott showed me what a truly great university teacher is.

In 1968 I worked as field assistant for his graduate students working on cardinals and catbirds in and around London. So, my early exposure to research was on birds but my interests turned to turtles when a friend and former university roommate, Dan Loncke (who was doing a Ph.D. on white-throated sparrows with J.B. Falls) invited me to work with him marking snapping turtles that nested each year on the dam on Lake Sasajewun at the Wildlife Research Station in Algonquin Park. A couple of years later I had started a M.Sc. project under the supervision of Ron Brooks to study competition between southern bog lemmings and meadow voles and red-backed voles. For various reasons that project didn't work out, so I called Ron to discuss a way forward and suggested a project on snapping turtles. To his credit, despite knowing little (at the time) about turtles, Ron was broad-minded enough to allow a beginning graduate student that much flexibility. Ron was a major influence on my academic career and I consider him a good friend to this day. George Kolenosky taught me a lot about bears, but also gave me insights into how to operate and survive in a government agency.

Professional Associations: I am a Canadian representative to the IUCN/SSC Polar Bear Specialist Group, I am the Ontario representative to the Canadian Federal-Provincial-Territorial Polar Bear Technical Committee, and I am a council member of the International Association for Bear Research and Management.

- Bruce announced that two senior members, Bernard Muller and Fred Bodsworth, have died since May. Bruce shared a short reminiscence about each. His text follows.

"Bernard Muller died on July 24, 2012 in his 97th year. With his wife Claire, he was a corresponding member living on Wolfe Island Kingston. Bernard and Claire were introduced to the club by Bill Carrick joining in 1998. After a few years they moved to Wolfe Island. Bernard and Claire shared many outdoor interests and activities in the 25 years they were married. Claire was his third wife.



Bernard was born in England and came to Canada as a child. He had a brilliant record at McGill University. During the second world war he became a weather forecaster in the RCAF and after the war he persued studies in meteorology. He joined the Atmospheric Environment Service rising to the position of Associate Director of the Research Branch.

Bernard had an incisive intellect and was both fascinated and stimulated by the Brodie Club meetings. I recall his keen participation in our discussions.

He was a man of many parts and extremely curious. Besides his love of the outdoors he was mechanically inventive. He was also a trained singer and in his later years volunteered to sing at retirement homes.
Bernard was a man we wished we had known sooner and better.
Perhaps I can finish this brief account by reading a few lines from his memorial; "A man with profound gifts: To love deeply, to forgive completely, to listen intensely, to laugh freely, and to feel humble and but a small part of the great scheme of life."
He enriched us all, and we will miss him so much."

Fred Bodsworth

"The most recently deceased member of our club is Fred Bodsworth, a very active member for over 55 years. Fred had a fall early in the summer and passed away peacefully last Saturday morning (Sept. 15, 2012) after a week in palliative care. He would have been 94 within a month.

Fred was born in Port Burwell and had his education there. We know Fred as an excellent writer and that began in St. Thomas where he was a reporter in the local newspaper.

One of his greatest achievements was capturing the affections of Margaret Banner, the most beautiful girl in the county. As Fred told us, he was helped in his courtship by complimentary tickets to the movies that he received as a reporter. It is hard to think of Fred without his loving wife and greatest fan who often accompanied him to the Brodie Club. Margaret died a few years ago.

In 1943 he left for greener fields in Toronto and became a reporter and editor for the Star and a feature writer for Macleans magazine in its heyday, where he worked with his longtime friend Pierre Berton.

If you were to ask any of us about Fred as a writer we would likely point to the "Last of the Curlews", which first appeared as a novelette in Macleans in 1954. He was encouraged to expand it as a novel and we know it as a slim volume beautifully illustrated by Terry Shortt in 1956. As you all know, in this story he took the part of a pair of Eskimo Curlews and explained their behaviour in great detail. Fred regarded it as a love story but it was more than that. Years later I met a Russian scientist who had studied the related Little Curlew, and marveled at Fred's "forseening". I think he meant that Fred got it right before he did his own studies. Anyhow as Fred said his greatest good fortune, apart from marrying Margaret, was when Reader's Digest picked up his modest little story. "It was like winning the lottery".

The book was published in many editions and languages including Russian. As Fred told me he went to Russia but couldn't take his royalties out of the country so he and Margaret lived it up spending the money.

While this was his first novel, we tend to forget that it was followed by several others – "The Strange One"(1959), "The Atonement of Ashley Morden"(1964), and "The Sparrow's Fall"(1967). A reading of any of Fred's books will convince you of his meticulous care to get the details right. His plots were creative and always depicted the interaction of man and nature.

A few years ago we went with Fred and his friend Dorothy Andrews on a Quest voyage to the High Arctic. Fred was fascinated by the young Murres that jump off a cliff, join their fathers below and then swim to waters off Newfoundland. When he got home he read books and research papers on Murres and began writing a new novel (shades of the "Last of the Curlews"). I am told that it is beautifully written but was not finished. His literary colleagues have given Fred a lifetime achievement award.

Of course we know Fred as a naturalist and a birder; he found the first nest of a Hooded Warbler in Ontario in White's Bush. Fred was a president of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, active in many other naturalist organizations and supported many environmental causes that often put his writing skills to good use. On a personal note some of us recall chilly January duck counts on Lake Ontario, and fall hawk watches while staying at his family home in Port Burwell, each followed by great meals served by Margaret.

There was a period when Fred led international birding tours to places like India in the early days of ecotourism.

Fred was a bright light at the Brodie Club. He didn't give many talks, perhaps because he didn't have time for the necessary research, but he was always there with penetrating questions and field observations. That continued into this year when he attended five meetings as well as the field trip at Peter's Woods in June.

To Fred the Brodie Club became his intellectual home where he could express his love of nature and take part in stimulating discussions (I share his feelings). Recently Fred has been living in a retirement home where he had a large room overlooking a bird feeder, and a desk for his computer. He enjoyed it there and said he was looked after very well, but intellectual stimulation was lacking. His daughters, Barbara Welch and Nancy Hannah, and friends brought him to the Brodie Club where he found the missing stimulation and the friendship of the members.

Nancy told me that one day this spring as he was struggling downstairs while someone was carrying his walker he was feeling rather desperate and said there was no point in living without the Brodie Club. We will miss him – we all loved Fred!

Members can take part in two memorial events in Fred's memory. Many of you will remember the walk we had at the Bracebridge Sewage lagoon, a birding parade led by Fred on his 90th birthday. Afterwards we were served lunch and Fred gave a speech. I remember he said –"*Oh to be 80 again*!" – A sentiment I can share. Well, we are going to do it again on October 7th and get a bird list in memory of Fred! In early November there will be a memorial celebration of Fred's life. His family hopes that many Brodie Club members will attend these events. We will and I hope many of you will too."

R.A…..Here are the details:
Sunday Oct. 7 Meet at 9 am in the parking lot at Kerr Park, Bracebridge. Brunch first, followed by a walk. Take Hwy 11 N and before reaching Bracebridge take exit 182, at Ecclestone Drive. Turn left onto Beaumont drive and proceed 0.6 km. west to Kerr Park on the south (left side).
Sunday Oct. 28, 1:00 pm at Qssis Banquet Hall, Kingston Rd. at Markham Rd. in Scarborough.
Please indicate plans to attend either/both gatherings by contacting family or getting in touch with Rose or Bruce Falls.

Member Glenn Coady has an extensive post re Fred on ONTbirds. It can be accessed at http://ontbirds.ca/pipermail/birdalert_ontbirds.ca/Week-of-Mon-20120917/031273.html

SPEAKERS:
Eight members made presentations.

George Bryant –Living Better Electronically

George demonstrated a variety of electronic devices and explained how they can enhance one's enjoyment and understanding of natural history. He began with sound files on his Ipod and related how he added newly-split Pacific Wren to his life list by playing the song. Before traveling to Britain (to take in the Queen's Diamond Jubilee) he downloaded an application (UK BirdPro) for European birds for use while traveling there.

A game camera focused on the cottage bird feeder documented raccoon, beaver and black bear with cub visitors.
On the other end of the technology scale, a 20-year-old home-made turtle trap resulted in the capture of a specimen of *Lota lota*, the fresh water cod, aka burbot or ling. It is a very slimy, slippery fish with an amazing life history.
George's favourite new "toy" is a 30X hand lens with an LED light for studying dragonfly genitalia.
Other electronics were a daylight-use 500 milliwatt green laser pointer (normal is 5 mW), a fish finder, fish TV, LED flashlight and a bat detector.

Illustrations included mating dock spiders, a tame Ruffed Grouse, Racing Pigeon (with electronic leg bands), Stinkpot turtles (four seen this summer at the Bryant cottage – including a one-inch hatchling), Big Brown bat (only one seen this year and no Little Browns unlike other years because of the epidemic white nose disease) and two Southern Bog Lemmings brought in by the cat, doubling last years' tally.

The site for ridiculously cheap LED flashlights, green laser pointers, and LED loupe lenses is DealExtreme.com (or dx.com).

Ricky Dunn – 65 years of BRODIE Meetings 1948-2012

Minutes for the most recent 65 years (1948-2012) of Brodie Club meetings were borrowed from Bruce and Ann Falls and digitized. In the 65 years of minutes, there have been 594 presentations. Forty-five were presented by members. On average, each speaker gave 1.7 talks, with 13 % giving two to four talks, and 7 % presenting five-ten different talks. The latter group accounted for fully 30% of all talks. Bruce Falls and the late Bill Carrick are tied at 16 presentations each.

Topics included birds (15 %), travel (11%), mammals (8%), archeology, insects, and plants (all at 5%), conservation (4%), paleontology and museums/nature centres (both at 3%). Some occasional topics (i.e. medical and expedition reports) have disappeared in recent years. Talks on birds tended to be a general approach rather than species based, whereas insects and plants were usually particlar to species.

Ricky introduced the concept of listing the titles on a Club website (yet to be created) with a link to these scanned minutes. This could be in a "members only" section. Minutes pre-1965 (an additional 27 years) could be looked for in the archives at the ROM and scanned.

In response to a question which asked whether she had noticed any trends in the subjects of talks given since 1948 she took a closer look at this question and has sent by e-mail:

"For the most part, there has been little change in the proportion of talks on popular topics that have been given each decade. Bird talks were especially frequent in the 70's & 80's, but dropped by about half in the 2000's. Archaeology had a spike in the 70's, and insects have shown a modest increase recently.

Among less frequently presented subjects, there have been fewer in recent decades on anthropology, marine invertebrates, medical subjects, and reports on meetings that members attended. Historical talks declined slightly, but have been balanced out by a few more biographical talks given more recently. Similarly, there has been a decline in talks about environmental effects of specific pollutants, but a slight increase in other conservation-related talks."

Ricky has also sent along short excerpts from the 1987 meetings and these glimpses of Brodie of 25 years ago will be added to minutes throughout the year. The first of "From the Archives" follows:

From the Archives: 25 Years Ago
September 1987

- Falls announced a book launch at the ROM for the Ontario Breeding bird Atlas.
- Dr. Arthur Gryfe, Queensway General Hospital, spoke on "North Chile: geography and peoples past and present." particularly on the Arica Desert. "Dr. Gryfe's two projectors, with views dissolving out noiselessly from one to the other projector, made a unique and spectacular presentation."
- Dr. Ann Dale, of the UofT Faculty of Dentistry, has given the Brodie Club a copy of an appeal by the Brodie Memorial Fund Committee, which appeared in "Oral Health" in 1911. This appeal to every dentist in Canada raised funds for the oil portrait of Dr. Brodie, now at the Faculty of Dentistry, which was done about the same time as the portrait of Dr. Brodie that is now in the ROM's Ornithology Department.

Bruce Falls-The State of Canada's Birds

Bruce reviewed the recently published "The State of Canada's Birds". Thanks to BSC he had copies for each member. There were shared after his presentation.
Here are his comments:
-A first for Canada- similar publications elsewhere considering birds as indicators of state of the environment
-Published by Environment Canada for the North American bird Conservation Initiative in Canada (NABCI-Canada) that draws together all organizations concerned with bird conservation.

-Information from published reports including BBS, Christmas census.
-A committee drawing heavily on CWS and BSC. (Ricky Dunn)
-Overall graphs of percent change since 1970, broken down into forest, waterbirds and raptors that are holding their own or increasing (especially waterfowl), and shorebirds, grassland birds and especially aerial insectivores that have seriously decreased. Possible reasons for these changes are discussed.
-Similar analyses giving trends, threats, and possible solutions are presented in separate chapters for each of numerous ecologically defined regions. We are in the Lower Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Region.
-Various aspects of bird conservation are discussed in the remaining chapters.
-The authors try to balance negative effects of man and cases where conservation has been effective but overall I did not find it a hopeful picture. (It can be seen online at http://www.stateofcanadasbirds.org/ RA)

Jean Iron- Hudson Bay Shorebirds and Wetland Studies


American Golden-Plover on breeding

Jean volunteered on two shorebird studies in the far north this summer , one on Hudson Bay and the other on James Bay. This evening she described the Hudson Bay study because it was new. Between 22 June – 18 July she participated in the initial year of an Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources 10 year project studying the impacts of climate change and changes in the permaforst, and shorebirds and wetlands in general on the Ontario coast of Hudson's Bay following the Arctic Shorebird Demographic Network protocols. In two study areas (each 400 m sq.) each breeding shorebird was documented. Three routes of about 12 km, 10 km and 12 km were walked on successive days and nesting birds recorded. Thirdly, about 50 tundra ponds were described for vegetation, depth, type of bottom, pH, conductivity, and temperature. All species of birds and mammals using the ponds were recorded. Sampling invertebrates was an important component of the study.

The study is based at Burntpoint Camp, which is about 130 km west of Cape Henrietta Maria in Polar Bear Provincial Park and is operated by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. Ken Abraham, another Brodie member, directs this station. There was still pack ice on June 22 but the ponds and land were open and available to breeding birds. Although the study area appears to be prairie-like grassy meadow it is very wet. Two buildings, enclosed by a fence to deter Polar Bears, are sited 3 km in from the coast on a gravel ridge. A weather station records many data including hourly soil temperature at four depths and transmits the data to Peterborough. Other team members were Julie Belliveau, a BSc student at Trent U., Matt Birarda, her assistant, and Jim Sauer, a retired RCMP


Polar Bear near camp

officer, handy with a rifle.

Jean shared many interesting observations, a few of which are recorded here.
Several pairs of Hudsonian Godwit were seen but a nest was not located. Adult godwits would perch in trees for a better view.
Dunlin remained on the nest even when researchers were very close; young have cryptic plumage. Iron surmised that adult and young Dunlin and other ground-nesting birds may have been negatively affected by the movement of thousands of caribou through the area in early July.
Nesting adults of Killdeer, Semipalmated Plovers, Least Sandpipers, and American Golden-Plovers all exhibited distraction displays when nests were approached.
A Pacific Loon was observed nesting; one of the most easterly records for this species.
There were very few small mammals this summer; in 50 traps over seven weeks there was zero catch. This scarcity of small mammals could increase predation by Parasitic Jaegers, Herring Gulls, foxes and other predators on breeding shorebirds.
A herd of Woodland Caribou, and several Red Fox and Gray Wolves were seen. A Polar Bear rested for two days in the area of the cabin after coming ashore.
Jean had excellent photos of many birds and plants typical of the Arctic. A complete report and photos can be seen at http://www.jeaniron.ca/Burntpoint/reports.htm

Woodland Caribou on Hudson's Bay Coast

Jock McAndrews- Diamonds and Pliocene Fossil Pollen

The DeBeers Victor Mine is Ontario's first and only diamond mine. It is 90 km west of Attawapiskat in northern Ontario; it produces large, gem-quality diamonds. These are mined in an open pit dug in a kimberlite pipe, the core of an ancient volcano that was active 170 million years ago during the Jurassic Period. This pipe originated deep in the mantle where it was hot and pressure was high. Since the Jurassic, the volcano's cone eroded away and marine sediment, glacial till and postglacial peat covered the remnant pipe. Today wet boreal forest (muskeg) surrounds the mine; mean annual temperature is -1°C.

Victor Mine

Exploratory drilling adjacent to the pipe penetrated lake sediment and glacial till. Paleomagnetics date the deposit to the Pliocene, 3 to 4 million years ago; the till is the earliest record of a continental glaciation in the world. Sediment samples collected by the

Ontario Geological Survey contain fossil pollen of pine, hickory, ironwood, elm, hemlock, sweet gum, maple, walnut, basswood, oak, beech, black gum and bald cypress or dawn redwood. These trees are typical of temperate forest of North Carolina where the mean annual temperature is 12 degrees warmer than today around Victor Mine. Publication awaits the November issue of Geology.

Kevin Seymour-Hunting for Dinosaurs in the NWT
23 August – 3 September 2012

Seymour, Matt Vavrek, a recent graduate of McGill University and Caleb Brown, a University of Toronto doctoral student, flew from Toronto to Edmonton to Yellowknife, and then by much smaller plane to Tulit'a. Known in the past as Fort Norman, Tulit'a is a former Hudson's Bay trading post located at the confluence of the Mackenzie and Great Bear Rivers. From Tulit'a they travelled the final 60 km by helicopter to the research site.

The trio camped on the dry gravel flats of a braided stream. The landscape was boreal forest with some outcrops where isolated bones had been collected in the 1980s. Outcrops of mudstone-like talus, similar to many Alberta dinosaur sites, were explored for evidence of bones. The highest level of the outcrop was the coarsest, and no bones were found at this level. The lowest level contained marine sediments only and no fossils either. In the middle level, the team found a dozen dinosaur bone fragments, the largest being a partial femur of a duck-billed dinosaur.

Caleb & Matt prepping Hadrosaur partial femur for transport

The helicopter moved them to a second area of outcroppings where petrified tree stumps were found in situ, but no dinosaur bones were located.

Over 11 days, no large mammals were seen other than two Black Bear sightings (and some bright red bear scat was observed, evidence of berry-eating). Mountain Goats are known to live west of this area, and Dall's Sheep east of this area, but neither was observed. Twenty-seven bird species were recorded. Worthy of mention were both Fox Sparrows and White-throated Sparrows still singing in late August, large numbers of Redpolls and groups (one of 150 individuals) of migrating Sandhill Cranes.

Kevin Seymour on talus slope

QUESTIONS:

Jim Bendell asked Iron about the number of insects encountered at Burntpoint and effects they had on the birds? He commented that the red comb of male partridge would be vulnerable.

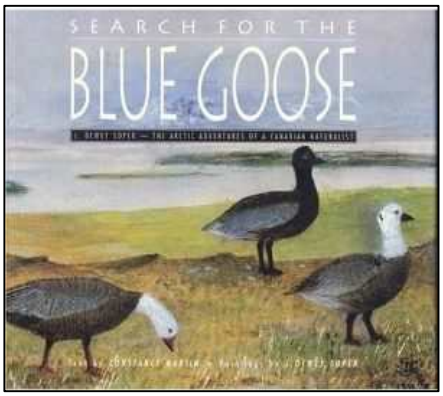
Iron didn't notice insects around the birds but observed them around the caribou and commented that the insects bother some people more than others. There was some breeze on the gravel ridge.
Ed Addison added that bears and other wildlife are bitten by black flies and that black fly species stratify at different heights.

Bendell questioned some graphs, especially of the insectivorous birds, in the State of Canada's Birds.
Dunn: The relatively straight lines are partly a result of them being combined trends for many species, such that the ups and downs tend to cancel each other out. Another issue, though, is the analysis model. The method used here has a built-in tendency to make trends seem linear, whereas other models better capture turning points. There's quite a debate going on about which models are most appropriate.

OBSERVATIONS:

David Hussell reviewed Arctic Naturalist; Biography of Dewey Soper. Soper first went to the Arctic in 1923. Over the next ten years he carried out various projects, often traveling by sled dogs. The discovery of the breeding grounds of the Blue Goose in 1929 is described. The egg collection made is housed at the National Museum. He did a lot of work along Bowman Bay, West side of Baffin Island.
Soper was the first Canadian wildlife Service person working in the prairie provinces and later in Alberta, Northwest Territories and the Yukon. Soper studied bison in Wood Buffalo National Park, documented bird life on the Prairies, made a detailed study of small mammals in Alberta and wrote the book Mammals of Alberta as well as many papers.
"Soper was the last of the great pioneer naturalists in Canada. He was also a skilled and meticulous explorer. As a naturalist, he was a major contributor to the National Museum of Canada, as well as to the University of Alberta and other museums across the country." From Amazon.com

Published by Dundurn, Sept. 2010. ISBN-10 1554887461



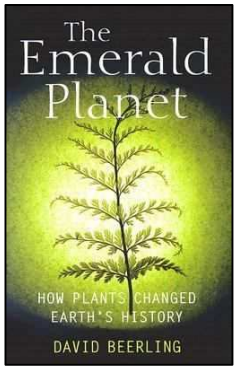
Also reviewed was Seach for the Blue Goose , by Soper with an introduction by Constance Martin. This illustrated book details aspects of Soper's trek as he searched for the nesting grounds. It contains paintings completed by Soper in his 70s which are based on sketches made in the field in the 20s and 30s. It was published in 1995 by Bayeux Arts, Inc. The ISBN-10 is 1896209149.

Ed Addison commented that a Giant Swallowtail had been observed on his property in Aurora. This is a first sighting. Several other members added sightings; a number near Peterborough and one on Prince Edward Point. RA.

One day during the summer, Glenn Coady had thousands of bees on his property. A naturalist from Durham knowledgeable about bees visited. He speculated two species were interacting. Fifty to one hundred fairly large, hairy bees with panniers to collect pollen were excavating tunnels into the ground. A great many- perhaps as many as 2000- of a different type of bee were entering these nests. It was suggested that they could be a species of cuckoo bee "robbing" the stores of collected pollen as they are not able to collect it themselves. Wikipedia reports that cuckoo bees lay their eggs in these underground nests.

Guest John Carley noted a two page review of David Beadle's recently published Peterson Field Guide to Moths of Northeastern North America .

Enid Machin reports two groups of different ages of Wild Turkeys at her country property. The groups vary between 17 and 50 individuals. Enid wonders about the composition of these groups.



CORRESPONDENCE:

From Helen Juhola… "Sorry we won't be at Sept. meeting. See you all in October" Helen recommends The Emerald Planet: How plants changed earth's history by David Beerling, published by Oxford U Press, 2007. Includes notes, index and illustrations. Every naturalist should read it."

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By E-mail to the Brodie Club
From Erica Dunn, 3 Sept. 2012

"On 1 September, I was sitting quietly on our deck, reading a book and watching White-breasted and Red-breasted Nuthatches shuttling between a bird feeder and a tree where they were caching sunflower seeds. A Red-breasted Nuthatch carried a seed to the seat of the chair next to me, and poked around as if looking for a good caching spot. Next it hopped to the ground by my feet, investigated a couple of crevices – then jumped up to the toe of my sandal and pushed the seed under my foot!

This species is known to be a short-term cacher, hiding as many as 150 items a day in a pattern that suggests much of the food may be retrieved later the same day (Grubb and Waite. 1987. Wilson Bulletin 99:696-699). While short-term caching is probably important for over-winter survival, this species does not appear to retrieve hidden items weeks or months later in the manner of long-term cachers like Gray Jay or Clark's Nutcracker.
Possibly the high rate of Red-breasted Nuthatch activity at our feeder is related to the note below, posted 3 September on the Sightings Board of the Long Point Bird Observatory:

"Early in August we began to notice a large number of Red-breasted Nuthatches and began surmising that an irruption year might be upon us. They are highly dependent on seed crops and in poor years will spread widely in search of food. Our suspicions were confirmed this last week as hundreds appeared on Long Point. Large numbers were recorded daily with up to 60 at Old Cut and 30 at the Tip with a total of 55 banded at the 3 stations. Only 44 were banded in all of 2011. Since 1960, the average number of Red-breasted Nuthatches banded per year is 119. Previous major irruptions were in 2007 when 556 were banded and 1985 when 408 were banded. Purple Finch irruptions typically coincide with Red-breasted Nuthatch and true to form small numbers were observed daily. The last major influxes of Purple Finches were also in 2007 and 1985. In the past similar trends have been noted for Pine Siskin, but it's a little early in the season to tell. So you heard it here first, it will be an excellent year for Red-breasted Nuthatch and Purple Finch in southern Ontario."

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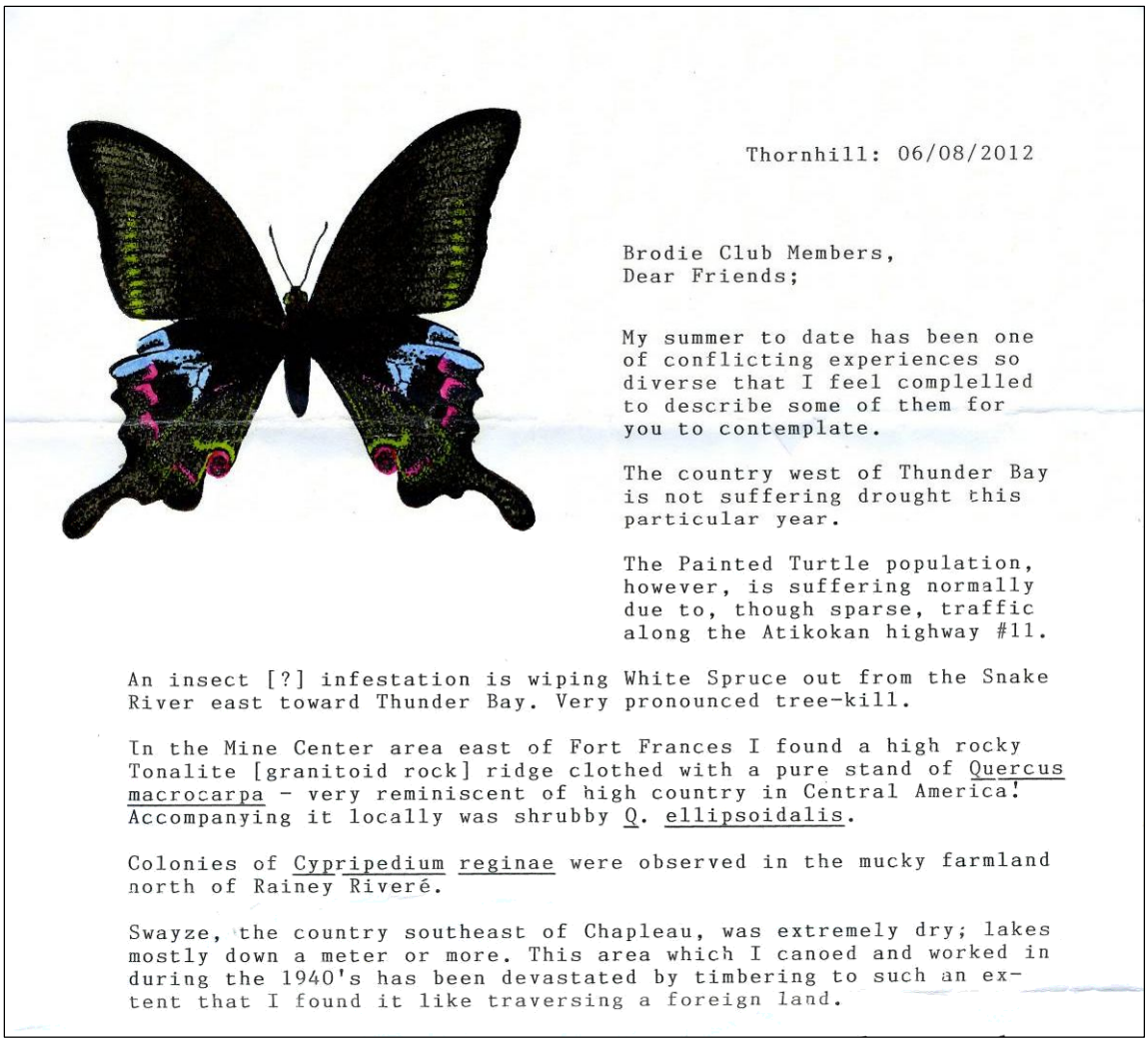
Ken Reading sent a letter and included photos of wolf cubs observed near Pickle Lake:



Thornhill: 06/08/2012

Brodie Club Members,
Dear Friends;

My summer to date has been one of conflicting experiences so diverse that I feel complelled to describe some of them for you to contemplate.

The country west of Thunder Bay is not suffering drought this particular year.

The Painted Turtle population, however, is suffering normally due to, though sparse, traffic along the Atikokan highway #11.

An insect [?] infestation is wiping White Spruce out from the Snake River east toward Thunder Bay. Very pronounced tree-kill.

In the Mine Center area east of Fort Frances I found a high rocky Tonalite [granitoid rock] ridge clothed with a pure stand of Quercus macrocarpa - very reminiscent of high country in Central America! Accompanying it locally was shrubby Q. ellipsoidalis.

Colonies of Cypripedium reginae were observed in the mucky farmland north of Rainey Riveré.

Swayze, the country southeast of Chapleau, was extremely dry; lakes mostly down a meter or more. This area which I canoed and worked in during the 1940's has been devastated by timbering to such an extent that I found it like traversing a foreign land.

The Thessalon to Chapleau highway is no longer a one-lane gravel road up the Mississagi canyon. Though paved and straightened here and there it remains one of the most delightful drives through an almost pure stand of White Pine and scattered Hemock left here in Ontario. The Mississagi itself, usually a boiling river, is a mere trickle of water over many gravel beds; where it parallels highway 17, further down, it is almost stagnant.

At Pickle Lake, some hundred miles north of Savant Lake, I enjoyed the rarest of treats on an old abandoned mine road ten K or more south of the derelict village. Photos are herewith.

I met and enjoyed a half-hour with a small litter of Timberwolf pups. The photos speak for themselves!

Ken

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, October, 16th at 7:30 pm in Room 432 of the Ramsay Wright Zoological Laboratories. Don Sutherland will speak on The Sutton Ridges.

Hugh Currie moved for adjournment at 9:30.