

THE 65th STATED MEETING OF THE A. O. U.

No event in 1947, to local naturalists, overshadowed the annual meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union, held between September 8 and 12 in the Royal Ontario Museum.

Eminent bird men from the far corners of the continent "rubbed shoulders" with the local group for five days and important discussions were heard on the most recent discoveries in the field of ornithology.

Canadian meetings of the A. O. U., one of the oldest scientific societies in North America, have been rare indeed (this was the fourth), and Toronto has been host to the Union on only one previous occasion (1935).

The business meetings, held at the Royal York Hotel on the 8th, resulted in the election of three Brodie Club members—Mr. Hoyes Lloyd of Ottawa (reelected President), Mr. L. L. Snyder (elected the 4th Canadian Fellow) and Dr. C. H. D. Clarke (elected the 11th Canadian Member). Fellowship in the Union is limited to 50 and Membership to 200.

Three days' sessions in the Museum Theatre were devoted to papers on various phases of ornithology. Particular interest centered on the Kodachrome movies of the near-extinct California Condor.

A field excursion to Toronto Island, attended by about 100 delegates, followed by an enjoyable luncheon at the Royal Canadian Yacht Club, concluded the meeting on the 12th.

The Brodie Club supplied most of the personnel of the Local Committee which handled the arrangements for the meeting, and it was generally agreed that a highly profitable, well attended and very enjoyable convention was held.

The 1948 meeting will be held in Omaha, Nebraska.

THE 437th MEETING—JANUARY 7th, 1947

Chairman, Hope. Attendance, 25 + 7 visitors.

BUSINESS: Announcement of the death of Edward J. Deacon.

PAPERS: *A History of the Christmas Bird Census*, Baillie. An account of the development of bird censuses from 1900 to the present, with particular reference to data obtained from the records of this club, which now extend over twenty-two years.

Exercise Muskox, Gunn. A report of observations made when the speaker was a member of the military detachment which carried out this exercise during the winter of 1945-6. Notes on birds, mammals, natives, weather; illustrated by lantern slides.

THE 438th MEETING—JANUARY 21st, 1947

Chairman, Thompson. Attendance, 23.

BUSINESS: The entire meeting was devoted to business, and the following matters were discussed: Editorial material for published Proceedings; Waterfowl population surveys; Honorary, Active, and Corresponding membership; Methods of improving attendance; Selection of Chairman; Number of meetings each year; Order of Business; Relation of the amateur to the professional naturalist.

Coventry and Cross were transferred to Corresponding Membership.

THE 439th MEETING—FEBRUARY 4th, 1947

Chairman, Harrod. Attendance, 18.

BUSINESS: Appeal from Division of Mammals for information on hibernation.

OBSERVATIONS: *New Book on Hawks and Owls by R.O.M.Z. now being Prepared*, Snyder. *Owls in the City*, Leeson. *Great Gray Owl at Toronto Island*, Ide. *Vocal Virtuosity of the Starling*, Harrington. *Hudsonian Chickadee*, Ussher. *Ducks Wintering at Toronto*, Baillie. *Another Great Gray Owl*, Hope. *Starling Feeding Habits*, Outram. *Cougar Reported near Toronto*, Downing. *A Ruby-crowned Kinglet's Nest*, Rutter.

PAPERS: *Life and Work of Ernest Thompson Seton*, Thompson. *How to study Birds* (review), Ussher.

THE 440th MEETING—FEBRUARY 18th, 1947

Chairman, Emery. Attendance, 22 + 1 visitor.

OBSERVATIONS: *Many Evening Grosbeaks in the City*, Leeson. *Snowy Owl, Horned Larks, Evening Grosbeaks*, MacArthur. *More Evening Grosbeaks*, Satterly and Devitt. *February Migration of Crows*, Harrington. *Scarcity of European Hares*, Campbell. *Shrews in Barred Owl Stomachs*, Snyder. *Rats and Pigeons as Barred Owl Food*, Lindsay. *Traffic Mortality of Foxes on Snowbound Roads*, Toner. *Stinkhorns in the Garden*, Rutter.

PAPERS: *Snowy Owl Migrations*, Snyder. A review of the data collected by an international committee.

Effect of Predation on Vertebrate Populations, Toner. Review of a paper by Paul Errington, who thinks that predation has a comparatively minor effect on population.

THE 441st MEETING—MARCH 4th, 1947

Chairman, Brodie. Attendance, 22 + 1 visitor.

OBSERVATIONS: *Great Gray Owl at Cobourg*, Outram. *"Parrot Mixture" Recommended for Bird Feeding Stations*, Devitt. *Many Evening Grosbeaks near Toronto*, Baillie. *Green Leaves in Hawks' Nests*, Harrington. *Hudsonian Chickadees in Simcoe County*, Ussher. *Anderson's Check-list of Canadian Mammals*, Clarke. *Winter Skunks*, Leeson. *An Artificial Heron Nest*, Southam. *Mammals of Michigan*, Downing. *The Vanishing Whooping Crane*, Shortt. *The Shingle Oak at Toronto*, Owens. *Habits and Distribution of the Bull Frog*, Toner.

PAPERS: *Recollections of some Former Members of the Brodie Club*, Baillie. Biographical sketches of J. H. Ames, J. H. Fleming, C. W. Nash, and John Townson.

Natural History in Newfoundland, Ide. Notes on the geological history, climate, topography, and wildlife.

Early Days in Newfoundland, Campbell. Informal, amusing, and instructive reminiscences of the speaker's travels.

THE 442nd MEETING—MARCH 18th, 1947

Chairman, Lindsay. Attendance, 33 + 3 visitors.

BUSINESS: Distribution of Proceedings for 1946. Announcement by the Membership Committee of election to Active Membership of William Carrick, York Edwards, Douglas Miller, Randolph Peterson, J. B. C. Runnings, and W. Bev. Scott. Remarks on the obligations of members by Snyder. Report from the Treasurer that regular membership fees would not be sufficient to finance the club for the balance of this year. A silver collection was taken forthwith and \$8.01 added to the treasury.

OBSERVATIONS: *Early Crocuses*, Owens. *Nesting of the Great Horned Owl*, Carrick. *Food of the Great Gray Owl*, Hope. *Rabbits in Queen's Park*, McIlwraith. *Bald Eagles at Navy Island*, Baillie. *Carolina Wren at Toronto*, Emery.

PAPERS: *Bird Population Studies in Algonquin Park*, Hope. A history of the work which has been done since 1945, and a summary of accumulated data.

Fishing on the Albany River, Mr. Frank James and Campbell. Two Kodachrome reels of an airplane trip in June, 1946, to some of the best trout fishing in Canada.

THE 443rd MEETING—APRIL 1st, 1947

Chairman, Ide. Attendance, 27 + 1 visitor.

OBSERVATIONS: *Squirrel Nests*, Owens. *Late Breeding of Golden-eye*, Lunn. *Joe Laflamme, Naturalist Extraordinary*, Snyder. *Opossum Taken at Chatham*, Downing. *More Horned Owl Nests*, Carrick. *Whistling Swan, Gadwall, and Tufted Tit*, Baillie. *The Starling as a Mimic*, MacArthur.

PAPERS: *Not a Physiological Impossibility, but a Biological Improbability*, Harrington. A stimulating discussion of the breeding cycle in birds, with an explanation of the speaker's theory that this cycle is a pre-determined specific factor.

Patricia From the Air, Satterly. Topographical observations made from an airplane flying over a little-known section of the District of Kenora.

THE 444th MEETING—APRIL 15th, 1947

Chairman, Satterly. Attendance, 19 + 2 visitors.

BUSINESS: The chairman appointed Baillie, Outram, and Rutter to act as Arrangements Committee for 1947 field day.

OBSERVATIONS: *Protection of Raptors in the British Isles*, Rutter. *Pinus Coulteri*, Brown. *A Melanistic Varying Hare*, Downing. *Trailing Arbutus near Toronto*, and *Conservation of the Hummer Marshes*, Mr. K. Mayall. *The Don Valley Conservation Club*, Outram. *Hooded Warblers at Toronto*, Runnings and MacArthur. *Wind-blown Birds*, Baillie and Satterly.

PAPERS: *Distribution of the Brown Rat in Ontario*, Downing.

Amateur and Professional Naturalists, Harrod. Each has his distinctive place; neither would be complete without the other; intelligent collaboration will bring the best results.

THE 445th MEETING—APRIL 29th, 1947

Chairman, MacArthur.

Attendance, 28.

BUSINESS: Announcement of the death, on April 18, of Dr. I. Seymour A. Hadwen. Recommendation of Field Day Committee that the event be held on May 18, at Glenorchy, in Halton County.

Dr. Hadwen, (b. Lees, England, 1877) graduated from McGill University as a Veterinarian in 1902 and proceeded that year to the South African War as a Veterinary Captain with the Canadian Mounted Rifles. He was associated with the Canadian Dept. of Agriculture from 1905 to 1920 (becoming Chief Animal Pathologist) and in the latter year was appointed Chief Veterinarian in Charge of Reindeer Investigations at the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture. For the two governments, he visited Alaska, Norway, Lapland and the North-west Territories of Canada, studying reindeer. Latterly, he was Chief Parasitologist of the Ontario Research Foundation. Until poor health forced his retirement, Dr. Hadwen was an active participant in Brodie Club activities.

OBSERVATIONS: *More Birds Blown In*, Baillie. *An Unusual Nest of the Blue Jay*, Harrington. *Courtship Through the Ages*, Snyder. *Females Outnumber Males Among Early Migrant Birds in 1947*, Shortt, Emery, and Gunn. *A Muskrat Wanders Downtown*, Leeson. *Summer Tanager at Toronto*, Emery. *Many Field Sparrows at Scarborough*, Gunn. *European Hare Population Down in Toronto Area*, Outram.

PAPERS: *By Air to Sweden*, Dymond. The speaker had been a delegate to the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, and gave an absorbing account of his experiences.

The Future of our Avifauna, Shortt. About fifty species of birds have disappeared in recorded history and perhaps twice that number face early extinction. In most cases the interference of man seems to be of secondary importance, and the speaker discussed the possibility of an evolutionary process working toward a reduction in the number of species.

THE 446th MEETING—MAY 13th, 1947

Chairman, Downing.

Attendance, 13 + 1 visitor.

BUSINESS: Announcement of the death, on May 9, of Percy A. Taverner.

Mr. Taverner, (b. Guelph, Ont., 1875), as Ornithologist of the National Museum of Canada from 1911 to 1942, although never a robust man, studied Canadian bird-life from coast to coast and into the Arctic. An architect by profession, his absorbing hobby of birds early led him into ornithological work. He was a man of esthetic tastes, a good craftsman and photographer, and an accomplished scientist. His "Birds of Canada" (1934) is a standard work. Although he visited the Brodie Club but once, he contributed papers to the Fleming and Saunders memorial meetings. A Taverner memorial meeting is planned for this autumn.

OBSERVATIONS: *Crow Kills Starling*, Dr. R. M. Saunders. *Attachment of Birds to a Selected Nest-site*, Snyder. *Orchard Oriole on May 11*, Runnings. *Tree Swallows Nesting in Toronto*, Lindsay. *Rare Birds at Point Pelee*, Baillie. *Turkey Vulture at Milton*, Brown. *Report of a Snake Thought to Have Been Seen Swallowing its Young*, Toner.

PAPER: *Life and Work of William Bartram*, Dr. R. M. Saunders.

23rd FIELD DAY—GLENORCHY—MAY 18th

Seven members and one visitor spent the week-end at Glenorchy, the summer home of Mr. C. M. Heddle on Sixteen-Mile Creek. In spite of unsettled weather and a disappointing attendance the outing was both pleasant and profitable for those who took advantage of the excellent accommodation and new territory.

THE 447th MEETING—SEPTEMBER 30th, 1947

Chairman, Baillie. Attendance, 16.

BUSINESS: Announcement of the death, on July 31, of Prof. Robert Boyd Thomson, and of the recent deaths of two former club members, Horace P. Stovell, and Capt. C. C. Dixon. Report by the Secretary of the 23rd field day. Report from the treasurer. Motion by Hope, seconded by Thompson, to increase annual fees to \$2.00. Carried. Announcement that Snyder had been elected a Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union. Nomination of officers and committees.

Prof. Thomson, (b. Prescott, Ont., 1870), was distinguished in the field of plant morphology. In 1924 he toured the world to inspect botanical gardens and from 1928 to 1941 he was Head of the Department of Botany at the University of Toronto. He was awarded the Royal Society of Canada's Flavelle Medal for "outstanding original research" in botany. Professor Thomson was a Past President of various organizations concerned with natural history investigation and promotion, including the Royal Society of Canada (biological section), Royal Canadian Institute, Federation of Ontario Naturalists and Toronto Field-Naturalists' Club.

OBSERVATIONS: *Prosecution for Shooting a Bald Eagle at Turkey Point*, Rutter. *Nocturnal Activities of Gulls*, Toner. *Hawks and Owls of Ontario*, Snyder. *Concentration Points for Holboell's Grebe on Lake Ontario*, Gunn. *Knot-weed and House Sparrow*, Thompson. *Crossbills in Algonquin Park*, Edwards.

THE 448th MEETING—OCTOBER 14th, 1947

Chairman, Boggs. Attendance, 20 + 2 visitors.

BUSINESS: Elections: Programme Committee—Clarke, Gunn, Outram. Membership Committee—Boggs, Emery, Snyder. Library Committee—Bell, Devitt, Ussher. Proceedings Committee—Baillie, Harrod, Rutter. Treasurer—Lindsay. Federation of Ontario Naturalists Representative—Rutter. Secretary—Rutter.

OBSERVATIONS: *Late Breeding Song Sparrows*, Lunn. *First Ontario Breeding of Ruddy Duck*, Baillie. *Walking-stick Insects, Clay-colored Sparrows, and Deer at Vivian, Ontario*, Ussher. *A Brown Creeper's Nest From Lake of Bays*, Thompson. *The Black-crowned Night Heron as a Swimmer*, Lindsay. *Praying Mantis Common in 1947*, Runnings. *Relation Between Late Spring and Nesting of Ruffed Grouse*, Fallis.

PAPERS: *The Duck Population at Bradley's Marsh, Hope*. An analysis of the species, numbers, age, and sex of ducks during the open season on Lake St. Clair.

The Double-crested Cormorant in Ontario, Baillie. A history of the expanding range and increasing numbers of the Cormorant in Ontario, and remarks on its economic significance.

THE 449th MEETING—OCTOBER 28th, 1947

Chairman, Brodie. Attendance, 30 + 5 visitors.

BUSINESS: Snyder moved that the chairman appoint a committee to study the constitution with the idea of making such suggestions for amendments as would bring it up to date. Carried. Committee: Outram, Rutter, Snyder.

OBSERVATIONS: *A Rare Moss from Muskoka*, Brown. *A Remarkable Veery's Nest*, Boggs. *Abundance of Chipmunks in 1947*, Hope. *Concentration of Holboell's Grebes near Port Hope*, Ussher. *Gray Fox, Osprey, Raven, Rusty Blackbird, Siskins, and Ruffed Grouse*, Harrington. *Clitocybe Maxima*, Bell. *High Siskin Population in 1947*, Baillie. *Habits of High Park Starlings*, Lindsay. *Porcupine in High Park and Harris's Sparrow at Wasaga Beach*, Devitt. *A Late Season for Tree Crickets*, Thompson. *Oregon Junco in Leaside*, Outram.

PAPERS: *A Study of the Short-tailed Shrew*, Edwards. An amazing increase in population in 1947 in Algonquin Park. Experiments on *Blarina brevicauda* and its relation to other forms of life.

Aquatic Plants at Whitewater Lake, Dr. J. H. Soper. Results of an investigation of duck food available in a lake near Sudbury, with many beautiful slides.

THE 450th MEETING—NOVEMBER 11th, 1947

Chairman, Snyder. Attendance, 25 + 4 visitors.

OBSERVATIONS: *An Insect Catastrophe at Rondeau, Satterly*. On October 11, 1947, many millions of insects were washed up on the beach by a northeast wind, and the speaker had made a collection of the fifteen species for identification at the R.O.M.Z.

PAPERS: The remainder of the meeting took the form of a memorial to the late Percy Algernon Taverner, who died on May 9, 1947.

The first paper, by Snyder, dealt with Taverner as he was known to those with whom he came in contact in his many years of brilliant work in Canadian ornithology. He was an original and accurate scientist and writer, a loyal and interesting friend, and an indefatigable agent on behalf of a wider knowledge of Canadian birds.

Baillie then gave a history of the Great Lakes Ornithological Club, of which Taverner was one of the leading spirits throughout its life from 1905 to 1922, and the members of which collectively dominated ornithology in Canada during that time.

The last paper, by Lloyd, was a delightful collection of personal reminiscences, and, in addition to depicting Taverner in the role of field ornithologist, paid further tribute to his sterling qualities as a man and scientist.

THE 451st MEETING—NOVEMBER 25th, 1947

Chairman, Harrington. Attendance, 29 + 11 visitors.

OBSERVATIONS: *A Winter Bat*, Owens. *Natural Reforestation*, Ussher. *Mechanism for Pollination in the Milkweed*, Lindsay.

PAPERS: *The Moose in Ontario*, Peterson. An interim report on the numbers, range, and ecology of Ontario's Moose population, from data collected during the past two years in various parts of the province; accompanied by slides and motion pictures.

Observations on Moose, Wolves, and Bears, Mr. Joe Laflamme. Miscellaneous anecdotes dealing with the life histories of these animals, taken from the long experience of this colorful woodsman and naturalist.

THE 452nd MEETING—DECEMBER 9th, 1947

Chairman, Leeson. Attendance, 24 + 2 visitors.

BUSINESS: Recommendation of certain procedures to be followed in taking the Christmas Bird Census, submitted by Baillie. Discussed, amended, adopted, and placed on file.

OBSERVATIONS: *Winter Robin Records*, Owens. *Bird Artists in the Toronto Region*, Snyder. *Least Weasel in Ontario*, Clarke. *Short-eared Owls*, Baillie. *Rare Plants in Cochrane District*, Satterly. *Local Rough-legged Hawks*, Harrington. *A Late Red-backed Sandpiper*, Dr. R. M. Saunders. *A Remarkable Winter Bird List*, Carrick.

PAPER: *Fishing with the Pound Net*, Scott. A summary of observations made among the fishermen of Lake Erie, with much information on species and numbers taken, fishing methods, disposal of the catch, and future of the industry. Illustrated by slides.

THE 453rd MEETING—DECEMBER 23rd, 1947

Chairman, Outram.

Attendance, 16 + 5 visitors.

OBSERVATIONS: *Red Crossbills in Toronto Region*, Baillie. *Horned Larks in King Township*, Ussher. *White-throated Sparrows Wintering Locally*, Miller. *Strange Habitat for Cinereous Shrew*, Edwards. *Flicker on December 23*, MacArthur. *Great Blue Heron still at Grenadier Pond*, Snyder. *Pigeons Mating in Winter*, Rutter.

PAPER: *Some Aspects of Reforestation*, Ussher. A description of the County Forest policy of the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests, and a summary of the knowledge which has been gained from experimental work on established plantations.

23rd CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS—DECEMBER 28th

The greatest number of observers (74) ever to take part compiled a list of seventy-one species, including Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Vesper Sparrow, Field Sparrow, and Fox Sparrow which were additions to census records. The grand total now stands at 120. The weather was fair and cold (20 degrees at 7 a.m.) with a light cover of snow.

MEMBERSHIP

The membership at the end of 1947 consisted of 31 Active, 41 Corresponding, and 7 Honorary Members. Active and Honorary Members follow:

Active

J. L. Baillie	Prof. T. F. McIlwraith
O. D. Boggs	D. S. Miller
J. A. Brodie	A. A. Outram
W. H. Carrick	R. L. Peterson
Dr. C. H. D. Clarke	C. D. Richards
O. E. Devitt	J. B. C. Runnings
S. C. Downing	R. J. Rutter
R. Y. Edwards	Dr. J. Satterly
F. H. Emery	W. B. Scott
W. W. H. Gunn	T. M. Shortt
Dr. P. Harrington	L. L. Snyder
C. E. Hope	H. H. Southam
Dr. F. P. Ide	S. L. Thompson
Dr. J. Leeson	G. C. Toner
R. V. Lindsay	R. D. Ussher
Dr. J. W. MacArthur	

Honorary

G. S. Bell	S. Harrod
H. H. Brown	L. T. Owens
Dr. J. A. Campbell	Dr. E. M. Walker
Prof. J. R. Dymond	

The average attendance of Members during the year was twenty-three.