

824 is missing from this set. Speaker and title were given in 822 summary.
About this time full minutes were distributed to members and this practice continued.
Minutes of the 825th Meeting of the Brodie Club

Tuesday, October 21, 1986, at the Faunal Lab, University of Toronto.

Bendell was Chairman, Aird acted as Secretary. The meeting was called to order at 8:15 p.m. Present were eleven members and five guests (Yvonne Bendell and Beverley Smith, guests of Bendell; Ann Falls, guest of Falls; Ross Goudie, guest of Auger; and Hal Bryant, guest of Churcher). Parsons and Ritchie sent regrets.

The minutes of the 824th meeting of the Brodie Club were read by Dr. Savage. Their adoption was moved by Falls and seconded by Carrick; motion approved.

Announcements:

The Federation of Ontario Naturalists' Operations Manual of a Natural History Club was given to Bodsworth and is now Club property, on the Club's shelf in the Faunal Lab.

Bodsworth drew attention to a new book entitled Eskimo Curlew: A Vanishing Species, by J. B. Gollop, P. W. Barry and E. H. Iversen, 1986, Special Publication No. 17, Saskatchewan Natural History Society, Box 1121, Regina, Saskatchewan, S4P 3B4, \$9.00. It records old as well as new records, and the estimate is that perhaps 25 Eskimo curlew are still present from the Mackenzie Delta to Alaska.

Savage drew attention to the Toronto Sportsmen's Association Conservation Lottery, with a chance to get to Florida, or win a sailboat, a tent and other items, with the draw to be in April 1987.

Carrick noted that we provide \$1.00 to the FON for each member, but there should be no charge for senior citizens, and perhaps we could save some money by recognizing our senior citizens.

Bendell suggested that the Brodie Club could go to the Galapagos Islands, at a cost of about \$1500 each, and we could select the islands we wanted to visit.

Speaker of the Evening:

The speaker of the evening was John Speakman, a member of the Club, who needed no introduction. He prefaced his remarks with comments about the atmosphere, excitement and scenery of the Arctic which he had experienced on a trip down the Coppermine River. Previous trippers have been Samuel Hearne, who published a book on his journey to the northern ocean, and Sir John Franklin. Speakman traced the routes of Hearne and Franklin, and then sketched his route on a map of Canada's Arctic. He noted that Franklin had swamped at Escape Rapids and that Speakman had encountered difficulties there as well.

Speakman travelled from Yellowknife in a Twin Otter to the Coppermine River. The first camp was in a dwarf birch bog, where 2 guides and 10 travellers experienced the Arctic wilds together. The Coppermine River was a fast moving river, and the trip took 10 days, with fine

sunny weather. They travelled during the first 10 days in July, when the lakes were frozen but the major rivers were open. They travelled 3 to 4 hours per day in two rafts with oars, though paddles were used on occasion. Wildlife encountered included Arctic terns, caribou, a grizzly bear with cubs, a gyrfalcon and golden eagles. No peregrine nests were found on the river. Plants encountered were the Rhododendron, wintergreen, Labrador tea, cinquefoil. Speakman caught a 14-pound char after a fight of 1 hour and 10 minutes on a \$15 Canadian Tire rod.

The trip was well provisioned with wine, celery, tomatoes, and other delicacies. Below the Kendal River he heard rough-legged hawks mewling and found a pair with a nest. He walked up a part of the Kendal River, followed by a merlin, where he suspected he would find the golden eagle's nest, and found two empty nests and then one young in the nest. There was no interference from the adults. A photograph showed a frozen river bed called Stoney Creek. Lupins, spruce, moose, saxifrage, semipalmated plover with 4 eggs beside a dwarf willow. Some of the rapids had standing waves 6 to 7 feet high flowing through red sandstone cliffs. The group slept well on auto-inflated mattresses. Also seen and photographed were lesser yellowlegs, golden plovers, a nest of longspurs, and grayling fish, before his camera came to grief in Escape Rapids, where the raft shipped 8 inches of water.

Speakman read an account from Hearne's journal of an encounter between Indians and the Inuit at Bloody Falls. The occupants of 5 tents of Eskimos were attacked and killed during the night. It was a frightful, bloody scene, and Hearne had no power to stop the battle.

Speakman showed a photograph taken from high above Bloody Falls, where the ice on the Arctic Ocean could be seen in the distance. The group portaged the Bloody Fall rapids. Two young golden eagles were on a nest at the falls, with a southern exposure. Muskox used to be present on the Coppermine but they are not there now, but close by. Speakman saw tracks of wolves but did not see the wolves. At the village of Coppermine, he was impressed with the aluminum boats and the use of all-terrain-vehicles for hunting. A beautiful moose horn crucifix was illustrated on the Anglican altar in Coppermine. He showed several photographs of the sun setting over Coppermine, where it reached its low point at about 1:30 a.m., a couple of hundred miles above the Arctic circle.

Questions and Comments:

Speakman did not see any snowy owls; the temperature was into the 70°F; the Hornby story was discussed, where Father LaRue was murdered by the Indians; there was a great deal of enmity between the Indians and Inuit; Speakman's guides provided tents, food and sleeping bags, with the trip costing about \$1500. It was a leisurely trip with lots of time for side trips. Golden eagles were as common as rough-legged hawks on the river. Very few geese were seen, two or three pairs of swans. Coppermine is entirely inhabited by Inuit, about three to

four hundred people, where the fishing is good and beluga whales and caribou are common. Neither Hearne nor Speakman found a copper mine along the river.

Carrick thanked the speaker, noting that it was the best travelogue he had listened to, and the "damp" film was excellent. Hearty applause followed.

Members' Notes and Observations:

Bodsworth reported being called to observe a bird stunned by flying into a window of a neighbour, and that she had covered it with a basket, and when he arrived, the basket was in a state of agitation, with an immature goshawk beneath it, which was later removed by the Humane Society.

Speakman reported enormous waves of geese flying south, including two snowy geese.

Boissoneau noted a few flocks of brant as well.

Churcher reported chipmunks in his garden, which were rare for his garden. Bendell noted that chipmunk populations fluctuated widely. Bodsworth reported no chipmunks in the Beaches area or in the neighbouring ravines for many years.

Savage showed a distorted goose skeleton that had been collected by Carrick a few years earlier.

Auger reported a moose in his driveway, and that he had not seen moose in thirty-three years in the region of Haliburton Lake.

Yvonne Bendell reported a pair of beaver in the Rattray marsh, with their home in the riverbank. It was observed by Carrick that beaver did not eat cattails, and tame beaver enjoy horse crunch, any fruit or vegetables, but not onions or radishes.

The meeting adjourned at 10:03 p.m.