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Minutes of the 826th Meeting of the Brodie Club

Held Tuesday 18 November 1986, at the Faunal Lab, Univ. of Toronto

Ritchie was Chairman, Savage acted as Secretary.

The meeting was called to order at 8.10 p.m. Present were 13 members and 8 guests (Norma Martin guest of Norm Martin, Frank de Matteis and Caroline Murray guests of Carrick, Margaret Bodsworth guest of Fred Bodsworth, Ann Falls guest of Bruce Falls, Margery Ritchie guest of Bob Ritchie, and Julia Dudleston and Mark Staab guests of Aird). Tasker and Cherry sent regrets.

The minutes of the 825th meeting of the Brodie Club were read, and after two minor amendments, were declared approved by the Chairman.

Announcements

Savage reported plans by Graeme Gibson to lead bird-watching tours in Cuba on 21 and 28 February and 14 and 21 March 1987, and on another date as yet undecided. If a tour of 15 people were made up, e.g. by the Brodie Club, free passage and an honorarium of \$ 450 would be provided to a 16th person. Bodsworth had been on a similar tour one year ago, and had seen 8 - 10 endemic species.

Bendell announced that no firm date for a ten day tour to the Galapagos Islands, as reported at the October meeting of the Brodie Club, had yet been set.

Martin, as F. O. N. representative of the Brodie Club, made known the upcoming international symposium "Greening the City" in February 1987 at the Prince Hotel and Civic Garden Centre, Toronto, and sponsored by the Pollution Probe Foundation, Toronto. Network News, a publication of the Ontario Environment Network, was noted in its fall 1986 issue as discussing in a Forestry Environmental Assessment article the plans of the Ministry of Natural Resources of Ontario to bring all crown lands in Ontario under its control and management. Plans to re-structure the F. O. N. administration into a Board of Directors and a Board of Trustees, to which Nature Club representatives would belong, were mentioned.

Varga announced a symposium on Backus Woods, sponsored by the F. O. N. and the Botany Conservation Group, Univ. of Toronto, on 25 November 1986 at the Medical Science Auditorium, U. of T. and invited Brodie Club members to attend.

Speaker of the Evening

The Speaker of the Evening, Bill Carrick, had chosen as his topic "Wild-life Photography", although he considered "Nature Photography" a better title.

Carrick first reviewed early Nature photography, such as Wm. K. Job in the early 1900's, and its methods, such as those of Teddy Roosevelt, who collected and stuffed wildlife and then took its pictures, and the use of pictures of captive animals. In Britain, much criticism of the use of animals in films led to a B.B.C. guide for wildlife cinematographers. Film footage in the United States and Canada, e.g. in Disney and Lorne Greenewildlife films was prepared by their staff, rather than by biologists, resulting often in "cutesy" films.

Wildlife photography, when recording animals and birds, has been most useful in research projects and in zoo and waterfowl establishments. Carrick believes that students in a wildlife project should be encouraged to raise the animal of his/her project.

In reference to behaviour of animals in captivity, Carrick has observed that newly hatched waterfowl will imprint on the first 1 - 2 days only, and in wood ducks even before the duck is dried off after hatching. Carrick has found that animals raised in captivity will revert to their usual behaviour in the wild, e.g. beavers will build dams, although hawks and owls need to learn to hunt.

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Numerous striking close-up still photographs of many bird species, e.g. chipping sparrows, meadow larks, swallows, bluebirds, pheasants, greater prairie chickens, ruffed and Franklin's grouse, snow geese, etc. were shown. Movie film footage of Canada geese, trained to follow a moving boat and photographed in flight was particularly impressive.

A live four month old wood duck was showed to those present, passed from hand to hand around the meeting table, and admired by all present.

The Speaker was thanked by Young, who had had a fascinating and most enjoyable evening, and was happy to be a member of the Brodie Club.

Notes and Observations

Bendell reported a Townsend's solitaire in Rattray's Marsh recently.

Reading had seen in southern Keewatin District this year a peregrine's nest with five eggs, of which two at least had hatched. A female grizzly bear had walked into his camp this summer, and after exploring his tent, had lain down and watched people in the camp for 4 to 5 minutes.

Young has seen his first house finch at his feeder this year on 10 November.

Aird reported seeing in October on St. George campus a domestic pigeon which flew up in the air, then collapsed and died on the road. He had placed it on the side of the road. Pigeons on campus at the sound of each cannon shot on Remembrance Day had been observed to take off, circle and then settle down a number of times.

Auger had observed no dead pigeons after pest extermination at his church by Able Waco.

Savage exhibited a portion of the sword of a swordfish, which had been found recently on a field near Welland, Ontario.

Meeting adjourned at 10.00 p.m.

NEXT BRODIE CLUB MEETING : TUESDAY 16th DECEMBER 1986, AT THE FAUNAL LAB, U. OF T.

SPEAKER : Mr. Harry Lumsden, Ministry of Natural Resources of Ontario

TOPIC : Re-introduction of the Trumpeter Swan into Ontario.

Festive Cheer Will Be Welcome !!

Howard Savage,

Co-Secretary, Brodie Club.