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THE BRODIE CLUB

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 17 May 1988.

Speaker: Dr. David Euler, Wildlife Branch, Ministry of Natural Resources of Ontario.

Topic: Native Wildlife in Captivity.

MINUTES OF THE 840th MEETING OF THE BRODIE CLUB

Auger acted as Chairman, Carrick as Recording Secretary

The 840th meeting was held in the Faunal Lab, Borden Building, U. of T. April 19, 1988.

There were eleven active members, seven guests and one corresponding member (J. Carrick) present. Guests were K. Yasui, J. Heath, L. Lynch, T. Brook, M. Bodsworth, J. Young and M. Tasker.

Meeting began at 8:07 PM with customary roll call and introduction of guests. Minutes of 839th meeting were read by Boissoneau, recording secretary for that meeting. Bertin suggested a correction that "N2" be replaced by the word nitrogen. Bertin moved adoption - Churcher seconded - passed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS - Carrick invited all members and families and friends to attend a special screening of an Imax film production "BEAVERS" at Ontario Place - April 25 at 7:15PM.

Savage passed on a request from Mary Gartshore for data on Hooded Warblers. Long Point Bird Observatory has three salaried Bird Observer positions available for summer students.

NEW BUSINESS - Carrick invited the Club to show support for pending legislation that would legalize holding of certain wildlife species by private individuals for the purposes of rehabilitation, propagation, educational uses and falconry. A motion was made to terminate support of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, who are actively opposing this legislation. This motion was withdrawn in favour of addressing a letter to D. Simpkin of the M.N.R. expressing support for the legislation with a copy to the F.O.N. Bendell agreed to draft this letter. D. Euler - M.N.R. will be invited to speak to the club on this subject.

SPEAKER - As a member, Churcher did not receive a formal introduction.

Churcher's subject was Fauna of the Dakhleh Oasis Past and Present. This oasis is in central Egypt, 300 Km west of the Nile Valley situated at the base of a south facing 300 metre escarpment. The formation dips to the north, is cretaceous in origin and contains fossils of plesiosaur mososaur, teleost fishes, sharks and sea turtles.

The cap rock is cretaceous chalk. Beneath are dakhleh shales, dewi phosphate layers and nubian clays. Spring mounds up to ½ Km long and 20 metres high produce bog iron (hydrated iron oxide).

The springs that support the oasis are highly sulphurous in content and represent the last vestiges of water in a slowly drying landscape.

In neolithic times the fauna was Ethiopian rather than Mediterranean and mammals present were, elephant, ostrich, giant buffalo, hartebeest, giraffe and ibex. These disappeared with the advent of agricultural man who excluded these mammals from the water supply in favour of domestic animals and irrigation. Neolithic drawings of people and other animals include giraffe with tethers or hobbles and cattle attached to drags or tethers.

Ruins are present from Middle Kingdom and Roman times including a large dovecote.

A lengthy question and discussion period covered other archaeological finds, the water supply and changes in climatic periods.

Bendell thanked the speaker.

OBSERVATIONS - Savage asked for suggestions regarding a location for the annual field outing in June - to be decided at May meeting.

Young reported on the successful wintering of a Brown Thrasher in Mississauga.

Speakman commented on a sudden increase in numbers of House Finches. Bodsworth suggested these may be developing migratory patterns.

Tasker reported a Grey-Crowned Rosy Finch in Manitoulin (second Ontario record). This bird was photographed at a feeder.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:40 PM