

Next Meeting: 16 October, 1990.
Place: Savage Faunal Lab, South Borden Building
Speaker: Dr. R. Pilliar, Faculty of Dentistry, U. of T.
Topic: Surgical, Implant Design: Considerations and
Effects on Bone Architecture.

The Brodie Club

Minutes of the 860th Meeting

The 860th Meeting of the Brodie Club was held on Tuesday, September 17, 1990, in the Savage Faunal Laboratory, South Borden Building, University of Toronto. Martin McNicholl was Chairman; Paul Aird was Secretary.

Fourteen members and ten guests (Margery Ritchie, guest of Ritchie; Margaret Bodsworth, guest of Bodsworth; Yvonne Bendell, guest of Bendell; P.S. Stepien-Scanlon, guest of Carrick; and Jock McAndrews, Stephen Moncton, Dave Mason, Ian Campbell, Greg Warchol, Kirk MacGregor, guests of Savage) were present.

The Minutes of the 859th Meeting were read by Aird and adopted.

Savage reported on the annual Brodie Club field outing on June 9th, at Carricks, which was enjoyed by eleven members and seven guests. Savage moved a vote of thanks, which was approved with applause.

Carrick mentioned that, since the field outing, the Canadian Wildlife Service had removed his avicultural licence. Carrick had imported Sandhill Cranes, without alerting the authorities. Sandhill cranes are on the CITES list, but he did not know, because they are hunted in the west. Carrick has cooperated with researchers, but is not permitted to do research. He was planning to do a film on INCO property, where they are digging holes and grassing areas for geese, but Carrick is now forbidden to take his geese there to photograph. Carrick kept some of his geese at Lishman's property, where they have trained the geese to follow an ultralight aircraft. The CWS is against this too. The object of their research is to induce rare birds raised in captivity to migrate south. He can still fly his geese at Lake Scugog, for awhile. Many members volunteered to write letters of support for Carrick's careful handling of the wildlife used in this exciting and practical area of research.

Announcements

Yvonne Bendell displayed a new book entitled "Rattray Marsh: Then and Now". It describes the history of the area, and all profits will be used to managed the marsh. The Bendells have copies available for sale.

Norman Martin mentioned that "Ecologically Produced" T-shirts and sportswear are available: reported on a note regarding the Cornell University "Feeder Watch" project; Mike Cadman is willing to speak to the Club about the Ontario Breeding Bird Program, and the Atlas of Mammals; Forests For Tomorrow will present their case to the Environmental Assessment Board beginning October 1.

Savage reported on a fascinating letter he had received from Reading on his work in the Keewatin District, which was read to us by Reading. A caribou herd had overrun him, heading south. Four velvet-antlered caribou appeared first, followed by a wall of caribou, uncounted hundreds, mostly bulls and yearlings. They were reticent at first. Where were the cows and calves? Next morning, the big herd arrived. They ignored Reading, who thought he had returned to the Pleistocene era. "We have lost our simpler vision of life. Standing in a river of caribou, I have seen the dawn."

The Doris Spiers Award of the Society of Canadian Ornithologists was recently awarded to Bruce Falls for his contributions to Canadian Ornithology.

Election Results

Treasurer - Speakman
 Corresponding Secretary - Savage
 FON Representative - Martin
 Membership Committee - Carrick, Riley, Young, Anne Falls
 Program Committee - Bruce Falls, Bodsworth, Aird, Bendell,
 Savage, Tasker, McNicholl

Speakers of the Evening

"Spelunking for Faunal Bone in the Niagara Escarpment", by Savage, Riley, and Associates. They went about 75 ft. down a vertical fissure, 0.5-1.5 m wide, located near Elba in Dufferin County. There was perhaps a foot of litter on some shelves, some with a few bones, some with many. They collected samples of bones to quantify species, not numbers.

Savage provided most of the data on the faunal bones collected and analyzed. There are only three other cave sites in Ontario with faunal records: Mount Nemo, Dickson Quarry, and Kelso, all in Halton County.

Niagara Escarpment Vertical Fissure Caves: Faunal Bone Records

Mount Nemo Halton County Bateman 1961	Dickson Quarry Halton County Churcher/Fenton 1981	Kelso Halton County Churcher 1979	Elba Dufferin County Savage 1990
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Bats	Bats	Snowshoe Hare	Frogs/Toads
Whitet'l Deer	Mice	Cottontail	Bats
Beaver	Muskrat	Bats	Martens
	Red Squirrel	Muskrat	Ruffed Grouse
Date: 10-10,000 years ?	Wapiti	Mice	Whitet'l Deer
	Turtle	Skunk	Racoon
		Pika	Porcupine
	Date: ? Wapiti was extinct after 1760	Toad	MiceMoleShrew
		Ruffed Grouse	Snails
		Date: Illinoian 9,500-10,500BC ?	Crinoid (from parent rocks)

More than one hundred bones were collected. It is not easy to separate frogs from toads. Marten bones were unexpected, and are perhaps more than 100 years old. The deer found had the top of its skull removed, perhaps by someone collecting horns. There were mouse tooth-marks on the deer tibia, and no carnivore marks.

The fissure is 30-40 m from the edge of the escarpment. It is dolomite for the first 20 feet, with limestone below. There were no air currents or strong odours. The cave does not freeze in winter. There are two entrances and a skylight. Leaves, sticks, and plant remains were abundant.

Questions and Comments

Cattle and horse bones were found earlier at Mount Nemo. Bob Bateman told Bodsworth there were caribou bones there, too.

Harold Hitchcock, Ontario's first bat bander, banded thousands of hibernating bats north of Belleville. He published papers about this in the early 1950s.

Young thanked Savage and associates for their excellent contributions, followed by hearty applause.

Notes and Observations

Bodsworth reported on birding at Port Burwell the Sunday before, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. - 1773 hawks, including 1558 broad-

winged, sharp-shinned, kestrels, harriers, red-tails, 5 bald eagles, 10 osprey. The next day, 2379 hawks, including 2258 broad-wings, 73 sharp-shins, 5 bald eagles, 13 kestrels, and 12 coopers, plus 1 parasitic jaeger and a dead opossum. Opossums have reached Oakville, and maybe across the St. Lawrence, too.

Jim Bendell saw an osprey with fish being harassed by a broad-wing; also geese, 2 bear, and pine marten near Gogama.

Anne Falls saw jellyfish in fresh water near Go Home Lake.

Bruce Falls reported on hearing a rattlesnake in a field near ~~Go Home Lake~~, about August 20th. He peered closer, and saw two snakes copulating. Two days later, he observed two other snakes on a beaver dam, side-by-side. Is this the season for mating?

Reading reported on the size of Tamarack at the tree line in Keewatin, 275-350 years old, 26 inches in diameter.

Warchol commented on a troglodytic salamander in a cave near Tobermory, which is unknown in this region.

McAndrews spoke about paleo-water-levels at Crawford Lake. Erosion signs on the cliff indicate at least three erosion levels.

MacGregor observed "square yards" of ladybugs, one layer thick, side-by-side, not copulating, at about 4,500 feet above sea level on the west slope of Sierra Nevada, California.

Savage reported on a 5,000 pound elephant now being processed in the Faunal Laboratory.

Aird mentioned that the annual census of the Kirtland's Warbler listed 265 singing males in 1990, compared to 213 last year. Over half the population is located in one wildfire area, about 10 years since burning.

Ritchie reported on a nest of merlins near Parry Sound.

Norma Martin saw one lone cormorant north of Sault Ste. Marie.

McNicholl commented on the giant swallowtail butterfly at Rockton, near Cambridge. Normal food is the hop tree, and maybe prickly ash. The butterfly atlas will be ready soon. He saw an odd mourning dove that looked like a white-winged dove.

The meeting concluded at about 10:20 p.m.