

MINUTES OF THE 887TH MEETING OF THE BRODIE CLUB. September 21
1993

Paul Aird, Chair

In Attendance: Boissenau, Carrick, A&B Falls, Huff, N&N Martin,
McNicol, Savage, Speakman

Regrets: Young Guest of Huff: Ken Jobe.

Minutes circulated and approved

Norman Martin made the announcements, and provided samples of
reports and correspondence received:

Advertisement for Donald Davis, Birds of Presquile
National Roundtable Report, and the annual report of the same
Old Growth Report from the OMNR

Dispatch from Earthroots

Breeding Bird Survey Newsletter

Feederwatch from Cornell laboratory

Correspondence from Irene Fedun on the Fatal Light Awareness
project.

Notice of the American Birding Association meeting in Niagara
Falls

McNicol noted the planned discussion of the Brodie at the TOC on
October 18 at the Planetarium

Savage noted that Dr. Walter Tovell will speak on the escarpment
at the next Brodie Club meeting

Bruce Falls noted the October 22 meeting of the Long Point Bird
Observatory

Discussion and Notes

Aird: Displayed a sample collected on the Bruce peninsula, and
pondered the shell fragments embedded in the same. He noted that
the Kirtland Warbler population had increased by 20-25% as a
result of an escaped prescribed burn having modified habitat (497
singing males in Michigan). He noted a sighting of Kirtland's in
Killbear provincial Park. Indicated he was now a member of the
Niagara Escarpment Commission. Showed slides of prickly pear
cactus from a site north of Highway #7 near Kaladar, these are
related to the cactus on Point Pelee (other populations are found
in Sask., Man., and Wisconsin and Michigan). The Kaladar plants
are smaller than the Point Pelee plants, it would appear that it
does not reproduce by seed.

B. Falls: Recounted collecting Dragon and Damsel flies at Long
Point, he undertook to collect and identify a collection. He
suggested this would be a good subject for a Atlas project. Long
Point is a World Biosphere site and much more needs to be known
of the flor and fauna of the site. Falls reviewed the pertinent
literature, in particular Ian Walker et.al (3 volumes) published

E.M.

in the 1970's, easy to use and an excellent guide to the Dragonflies of Canada and Alaska. Falls also mentioned ARGIA the journal of dragonfly aficionados, and a book by Hutchinson et. al. dealing with Quebec species. Falls noted that "wing venation" is an important tool for identification. Falls noted that Bowles listed 44 Damsel, 113 or 114 Dragon flies with 200 species in Canada. Falls displayed dragonflies treated with acetone and mounted in glassine envelopes.

Speakman: commented ^{favourably} on the quality of the photos which Falls had taken and distributed during his presentation. In addition he made observation on the level of feeding by Purple Martins.

Carrick: Described the summers Trumpeter Swan egg collecting expedition to the Minto Flats in Alaska. The flats near Fairbanks are about 1000 square miles and home to approximately 100 breeding pair of Trumpeters. 50 eggs were collected by float plane, Lumsden collected 27 and Carrick the balance. Carrick noted that more eggs were put into the program than in the previous 10 years, and Scott Paper assisted with expenses. Currently there are 19 birds at Lake Scugog, 20 at the zoo, 6 did not hatch, 1 had a hip deformity, 1 died in netting and 3 ^{septuaginta} "committed suicide". Carrick reviewed the travel by the Wye Marsh bird which travelled to Hamilton and then Pickering mating with a Frenchmens Bay bird. --- went to lake Temiskaming. The CWS is finally relented and has provided the adequate permits, and Mr Carrero has been moved from CWS enforcement to the habitat section.. Dr Edy at Scarboro College is cooperating with an imprinting study. Carrick in response to question discussed feeding and care of the birds and how the birds would follow boats without inducement.

Edie

McNicoll: Described the success of the Tern project on the Spit, over 300 were fledged, with 100 nests. Three terns hatched and fledged on the float in the trout pond on Toronto island. McNicoll predicted colonization of this float next season, he also noted that there were over 100 heron and Cormorant nests on the Spit and the Cormorants are pushing Herons off nests. High water levels saw Ring bills trying to nest in Cormorant nests. He recounted birding highlights from his trip to Cuba (Antillean Nighthawk, Black Whispered Vireo. The Caribbean Ornithology conference was attended by three Canadians. Responding to question he mentioned that Tern predation can be attributed to gulls foxes and Ruddy Turnstone. The conversation also touched on Ring bill control and roof nesting (A Falls mentioned 400 on roof near Highway 11 in Barrie).

A Falls: Discussed Goldenrods and Asters of Ontario published as part of the University of Waterloo Biology Series. Particular attention was given to the range maps, A Falls in response to Aird indicated that there were some 30 types of Goldenrods found in Ontario. A Falls recounted her viewing of a Bison preserved for 36,000 years and discovered by gold miners in 1979 on display at the University of Alaska museum.

N Martin: Discussed his work on biotic forest communities, which is an expansion of his earlier work from the 1950's centred on Algonquin Park. He is further developing his idea about forest type succession related to bird communities. He noted that the volume of literature was almost unmanageable compared to what was available earlier. He also noted we can expect a second and more refined version of his guide. He described his study of a site (unnamed in Northumberland County) which is 130 feet to top of canopy and is transition from Oak-Pine to Maple-Beech. Martin described his views on succession and the ability to identify the stage by the amalgam of the biotic community. In response to Speakman, Martin stressed the role of shade tolerance, and how it relates to Hemlock. Martin noted that the issue of forest succession is controversial, and reviewed the various opinions on Hills work.

Jobe: Indicate who pleased he was to be in attendance, and discussed his volunteer work with the Sierra Club in Texas, the Corpus Christi conference dealing with cruise ship dumping (plastic pollution and the Ridley turtle), offshore pollution and the gulf of Mexico Project (estuary mapping).

Boisseneau: Summarized bird observations from the Cannington area Wilson Phalarope, say an American Avocet at the lagoons, Grasshopper Sparrows on the Carden Plain, Osprey nesting 5th Concession of Carden despite being very close to a busy road. Dunlin, 4 least, 2 spotted sandpipers, and 11 common snipe at the Cannington lagoon, later a Red-necked phalarope, Labour Day weekend Blackheaded Gulls at the Beaverton sewage lagoon mixed with 500 Bonaparte. Norman martin asked about the status of the Loggerhead Shrike on the Carden plain, told there were no formal surveys this year.

Speakman: Presented an excellent slide show on his float trip (12 guest plus staff run by Canadian River Expeditions) on the "Tat" River, an area of a newly announced National Park in North East British Columbia. Noted that he was not impressed by the amount of wildlife, but did see Mountain Goat and Grizzlies, and 100's of Bald Eagle. The Tat is limited to 200 people per year, and was impressed by the "low impact camping".

Savage: Displayed a prepared skeleton of a Brown Pelican (sub species from Northern Chile which is a larger form), regaled the assembled with pelican lore (and the trials of obtaining the species and more importantly the permit). The gizzard is capable of holding a litre while the bill has a 4 litre capacity, the bones are as tick as 3 pages of paper, and that the White pelican has the longest wing span of any Ontario bird. McNicol noted that the Brown Pelican unlike the White Pelican plunge dives, there was discussion whether this was reflected in the bone structure.

The call for adjournment was made by Aird at 10.20 p.m.