

THE BRODIE CLUB



ROYAL ONTARIO
MUSEUM OF ZOOLOGY

By Sandra Eadie

On Sunday, June 9, 2002, about a dozen Brodie Club members joined the Pickering Field Naturalists for a visit to Bill Carrick's property on the Scarborough-Pickering Townline for our annual field day. Our host took us to the Sandhill Crane enclosure and brought the four adults in for an extremely close view. We enjoyed their calls too. At first there was no sign of the baby Sandhill and we were afraid a raccoon had just got it, but happily it was discovered later. We saw many baby Canada Geese but no baby Trumpeter Swans, which have yet to hatch.

In one of the buildings, we watched Bill's beavers - the parents and two young ones born at the beginning of April. One of the parents appeared in the movie *Grey Owl* as a baby. Bill is also looking after a two-week old baby beaver rescued from the Muskokas. It seems happy with its bottle and was very amenable to being lifted and petted. His was a more typical age as a middle-to-late-May birth date is the usual for beavers in this area.

Some of us explored the nearby Amos Pond on a walk led by Doug Lockrey of the PFN. It was created by the filling in of a gravel pit. Dave said the large number of Canada Anemones by the path was the first time he had seen them there. From the path, which runs between the gravel pit pond and another swampy pond, we saw about eight untagged Trumpeter Swans from the zoo. Other birds seen were a Ruby-throated Hummingbird and a Red-breasted Grosbeak. On the way back to Bill's place for lunch, a Pileated Woodpecker flew by and was heard to call later.

After lunch, in the swamp north of Bill's property just across the railway line, we saw a young Great Blue Heron and some Wood Ducks. We also had an opportunity to meet Jay Carrick, Bill's son, who was on vacation from his position as First Secretary in Canada's High Commission in India. He showed us pictures from a recent visit to Bhutan which included peasants and their colourfully decorated donkeys, a prayer wall and Yaks, all set in a fertile and prosperous countryside. Canada has a special relationship with Bhutan because a Canadian Jesuit priest worked hard at building the country's education system from the fifties until his death in 1995. The Canadian Ambassador's visit to Bhutan marked a co-operative agreement on education between the two countries.

By 2:30, it was time to go. It had become a hot and sultry day with the threat of rain.

Bernard and Claire Muller have moved to Wolfe Island, to their new house a short distance from the Kingston ferry. Their new address is:

F.B. and CA. Muller
1263 Main St
P.O. Box 126
Wolfe Island ON
Canada KOH 2Y0

Next Meeting:

A members' night will be held at 8 pm on Sept. 17 in Rm. 432 of the Doff zoology labs. Members are invited to bring observations, slides, videos and trophies from their summer.

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