

From Canadian Field-Naturalist, November 1935, p. 140

JOHN TOWNSON

May 13, 1856 - October 9, 1934

On October 9, 1934, John Townson, a well-known naturalist-sportsman) of Toronto, died suddenly while proceeding to his shooting blind at Weller's Bay, Prince Edward County, Ontario. Mr. Townson was born at CarHsle, England, on May 13, 1856. At the age of three he came to Canada with his parents who established residence in Toronto.

John Townson represented that admirable group of sportsmen who are primarily naturalists and secondarily marksmen. His bag was frequently divided between scientific collections and the tables of his many friends. He was familiar with such shooting stations as Long Point (Norfolk County), Weller's Bay, St. Clair Flats, and Conroy's Marsh (Halton County), in Ontario. His proficiency in identifying waterfowl and shorebirds was widely recognized and his interesting accounts of the ways of birds in general appeared regularly for upwards of fifteen years in the Toronto Globe. He also contributed articles to Rod and Gun which are dependable records of observations. His only contribution to The Canadian Field-Naturalist concerned the nesting of the Lesser Scaup Duck at Toronto, (Vol. 44: 167. 1930).

Mr. Townson's memory for incidents and information concerning the Toronto region, covering a period of more than three score years, was most remarkable. As a member of the Brodie Club he formed a valuable link between the past and present in our rapidly changing environment. His passing, at the age of seventy-eight, takes from Toronto natural history circles a most useful life and an admirable individual who enjoyed the wide range of human activities from the sportive to the serious.

L.L.Snyder