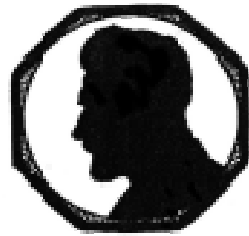


THE  
BRODIE  
CLUB



ROYAL ONTARIO  
MUSEUM OF ZOOLOGY

THE 1,004th MEETING OF THE BRODIE CLUB

The 1,004th meeting of The Brodie Club was held on Sept. 19, 2006 at the Ramsay Wright Zoological Laboratories at the University of Toronto.

Chairman: Kevin Seymour  
Secretary: Oliver Bertin

There were 23 members and 10 guests:

Jeremy Hussell, guests of Ed and Rose Addison  
Barbara Welch, Nancy Hannah & Fred Hannah, daughters and son-in-law of Fred Bodsworth  
John Sparling and Brenda Gibson, guests of the club  
Sharon Hick, guest of Jock McAndrews  
Barbara and Witold Klawe, guests of Bruce Falls  
Eleonora Bertin, guest of Oliver Bertin

NEW BUSINESS:

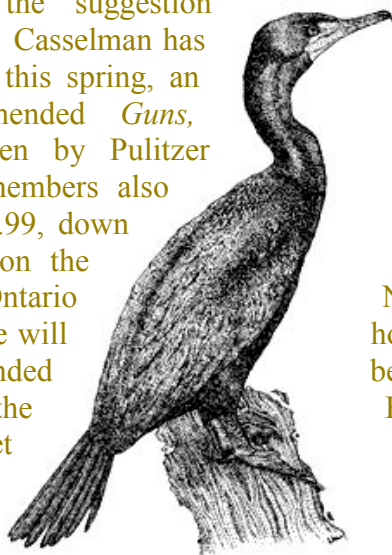
- The club welcomed two new members. John Sparling is a former UofT botany professor and an expert on bogs. John Casselman is adjunct professor of biology at Queen's University in Kingston and a former senior research scientist with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources at Glenora fisheries station in Picton.
- The members passed a motion to send flowers to Norm Martin, who is under treatment for prostate treatment. He sent the following reply:

*Dear Brodie Club Friends:*

*Thank you for the beautiful arrangement of flowers, delivered to Norma and me by the Bendells, from the Brodie Club. We have it in our living room where it reminds us of a long standing and precious relationship. I drive to Kingston every day for radiation treatment for prostate cancer and am more than halfway through. How soon I get back to normal depends on how soon the side effects go away.*

*Best regards,  
Norm and Norma*

- Nominations will be held at the October meeting for the posts of secretary, treasurer and members of the various committees. Members are invited to volunteer for the position of their choice. Bertin has been secretary for eight years and he suggested it may be time for a fresh, new look. The position can take a fair bit of work, depending on how much the secretary wants to do. Some past secretaries have written one-page summaries of the meetings; some have typeset and printed professional-looking monographs!
- Corresponding member George Peck suggested by mail that the club take "a firm, public stand" against the proposed cull of Double-crested Cormorants in Ontario. Several members recommended against the suggestion because of the wide range of opinions on this species. Casselman has offered to speak on the cormorant at a meeting this spring, an offer that members welcomed.
- Sandra Eadie recommended *Guns, Germs and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies*, written by Pulitzer Award winner Jared Diamond in 1999. Several other members also spoke highly of the book, which Amazon.ca lists for \$14.99, down from the regular price of \$24.99.
- Trudy Rising reported on the activities of Ontario Nature, the Federation of Ontario Naturalists under a new name. She noted that Ontario Nature will hold its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala on Nov. 14. The notice is appended below.
- Rising suggested that the Brodie Club send a \$30 gift certificate to Janet Mannone of the zoology departmental office, who helped find a meeting place for the club on short notice after the usual room was found to be unavailable.
- Bertin is updating the membership list for the first time since the 1,000<sup>th</sup> meeting. Please send any changes in email or home addresses to oliver.bertin@utoronto.ca or 416-588-8520.
- Treasurer Aarne Juhola welcomes the payment of annual dues: \$10 for individuals and \$15 for families.
- The October meeting will be held on Oct. 17, the usual third Tuesday of the month, at 7:30 p.m in Room 432, as usual. Bruce Falls has invited Prof. Maydianne Andrade of UofT's Scarborough campus who will speak on "The Mating Strategies of Cannibalistic Spiders."



#### NOTES & OBSERVATIONS:

Several members and friends travelled to the High Arctic for two weeks in late August. They reported on their trip at the September meeting. The voyagers included: Jean Iron, Bruce and Ann Falls, Mary Boswell, Enid Machin, Fred Bodsworth and Dot Andrews.

They flew to Resolute on Cornwallis Island where they boarded a former Soviet research icebreaker that took them to Devon Island, Somerset Island, Cobourg Island, Beachey Island, where several members of the ill-fated Franklin expedition are buried, the village of Qaanaaq in northern Greenland and back across the Davis Strait to Pond Inlet in northern Baffin Island before returning to Resolute.

Bruce Falls shot six hours of video that he edited down to 14 minutes for his presentation to the club. It was a very interesting trip, he said, and the videos showed how right he was. He shot footage of stratified rock in Greenland, icebergs, a herd of 100 Beluga whales, bearded seals, polar bears, a walrus and two musk ox close up. There were thousands of Thick-billed

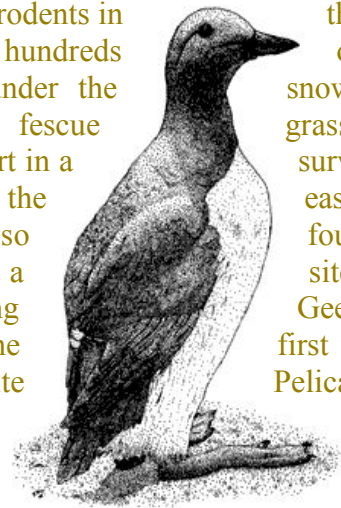
Murres on the cliffs, adults and young ones tumbling into the water as they learned to fly. There was a rich and varied abundance of life in the sea and a wide variety of plants on land.

"It was wonderful scenery," he said. "Just staggering."

Ann Falls shot hundreds of still pictures. Mary Boswell talked about the geology and the flora and the beautiful skies and light, while Enid Machin talked about the huge abundance of life in the sea and coral fossils on Beachey Island. "Everybody was looking at the cliffs, while I was looking at the water," Machin said.

Ken Abraham spent five weeks further south, studying waterbirds in the Hudson Bay Lowlands of northern Ontario and southern Nunavut. Abraham continued his Snow Goose and Canada Goose research and banding programs. He found that the Canada Goose population in some areas was the highest recorded in recent years. On Akimiski Island, there was an apparent peak population of microtine rodents in the winter of 2005-2006. The ground was covered by the trails of hundreds of small voles and other creatures that moved through the grass under the snow cover last winter and a great deal of defoliation had occurred in fescue grasslands.

Abraham also took part in a survey of Black Scoters in the James Bay area. Most of the males from the eastern NA population of these ducks moult in this region. He also found the first confirmed instance of Black Scoter breeding in Ontario, at a site 20 km east of Peawanuck, the first record of breeding Cackling Geese in Ontario, a few kilometers west of Cape Henrietta Maria, and the first records of nesting cormorants and egg-laying American White Pelicans in western James Bay, in Akimiski Strait.



He also saw a polar bear with three cubs, an unusual sight, and a herd of 200 caribou. They seem to be congregating in Polar Bear Provincial Park and northeastern Ontario, perhaps to avoid human interaction or wolves or possibly to find more food. Abraham noted that AMEC consultants working for the De Beers diamond mining company have been studying the caribou as part of the environmental assessment program for the proposed mine near Attawapiskat. They found that some of the caribou traveled from James Bay to the Manitoba border and back in one winter.

In early July, Abraham joined some of his MNR staff in the North Channel of Lake Huron, who were banding Double-crested Cormorant. They banded several hundred cormorants as part of a study of these fish-eating birds. The banding was instigated to measure movements in the Great Lakes system and is part of a multi-jurisdiction colour marking program and because of the results of MNR research during 2001-2005. This research showed that experimental oiling reduced local cormorant fishing pressure in the short term (one to two years) with a corresponding increase in local fish populations, but did not have a longer effect. This is apparently because when the local fish population rises during the period of oiling, other birds take advantage of the return within two seasons and knock the fish back again.

While at the colony, Abraham observed two regurgitated boluses and noted that one had eaten about 30 small crayfish, while the other ate several small fish that resembled sunfish or small rock bass.

Paul Aird reported the finding of three male Kirtland's Warblers in June-July of this year on the Canadian Forces Base in Petawawa, Ont. The Kirtland's Warbler (*Dendroica kirtlandii*) is one of the world's most endangered species.

He sent the following Canadian Forces press release to the Brodie Club, with his corrections. I have included both.

### CFB Petawawa locates endangered bird

CFB PETAWAWA, ONT – August 9, 2006

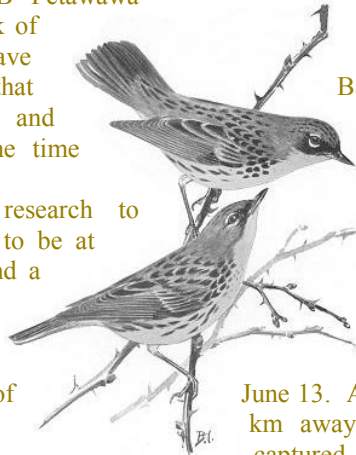
The Base Environmental Office at CFB Petawawa has found, identified and confirmed the presence of an endangered and rare bird, the Kirtland's Warbler, within the base property.

With the assistance of the Canadian Wildlife Service, one bird was captured, banded and then released. CFB Petawawa will work closely with the Canadian Wildlife Service to implement a recovery strategy to best protect the Kirtland's Warbler while maintaining its reputation as a leading training facility within the Canadian Forces.

"The find demonstrates DND's commitment in managing its properties and resources in an environmentally responsible fashion," said Lieutenant-Colonel Dave Rundle, CFB Petawawa Base Commander. "With the hard work of the environmental office, we have successfully created an environment that allows the Canadian Forces to train and prepare its soldiers while at the same time protecting its natural resources."

CFB Petawawa conducted research to identify and study species determined to be at risk both Federally and Provincially and a comprehensive species at risk program was undertaken. The effort is part of the base's environmental stewardship program that is a required element of National Defence's Sustainable Development Strategy.

"It was during this year's activities that a Kirtland's Warbler was first sighted within the training area," said Sid Bruinsma, the CFB Petawawa Base Environment Officer. "We were then able to locate, capture, tag and release a second specimen that was found over 16 km away from the location of the first sighting."



The Kirtland's Warbler is listed as an endangered species and has rarely been observed to this extent in Canada. The significance of this find will hopefully provide an opportunity to further study the Kirtland's Warbler in a protected area.

Note to editors: For more information contact Captain Scott Spurr, CFB Petawawa's Public Affairs Officer at (613) 687-5511, ext. 6721, or cell at (613) 639-9107.

#### **Aird added the following:**

Regrettably, there are errors in some of the releases regarding the number of birds found and the number of birds banded. Following is a corrected and more complete version of this rare finding:

Three male Kirtland's warblers were found in young jack pine forests and plantations on the Canadian Forces Base Petawawa by a search team led by Tammy Richard with Nancy Hiscock of the Ontario Resource Management Group, Pembroke; Daryl Coulson of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Pembroke; and Paul Aird of the Faculty of Forestry and the Centre for Environment, University of Toronto. Two birds were found close together, one on June 6 and one on June 13. A third bird was found on June 7, about 16 km away from the other two. This bird was captured, banded and released on July 6 by Charles Francis and Ken Tuininga of the Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada, and Carol Bocetti of the U.S. Kirtland's Warbler Recovery Team. No female birds were found. They are much more elusive because they don't sing, and access to the search areas was limited due to active military training exercises underway.

Sandra Eadie projected dramatic slides from her trip to Namibia last March. She showed wonderful red sand dunes, an ephemeral river, huge meteors on show in the capital of Windhoek,

butterflies, water lillies in the wet season, a crocodile, several Oryx and a dead cobra. A chameleon changed colour, from green to brown to red before the lens of her camera.

Jim Bendell took an elder hostel tour of the Greek Islands last April and May. He visited the Parthenon, Santorini and the labyrinths of Crete. He noted that the ancient Greeks were well aware of nature. It was part of their psyche. Archaeologists are studying the island of Santorini which was blown into a giant horseshoe by a volcanic eruption 4,000 years ago. He saw abundant paintings of the bull-vaulting in ancient Crete but no sign of the labyrinths of Knossos. Current thinking is that the labyrinth really referred to an ancient castle that was a maze of doors and blind passageways, all designed to confuse and confound an invading enemy.

Bendell also told of his adventures tracking down a mouse in his house in the Ottawa valley. He shook a captured mouse in a bag full of ultraviolet powder and let it go. Using the powder and an ultraviolet light, he soon found the mouse was entering his house through a tiny hole under the soffitts.

McAndrews asked members for the best way into the Pottageville Swamp, south of Schomberg, Ont. The swamp is the last untouched area of the Holland Marsh.

### A Forest Saved

by Yorke Edwards  
Our Western Correspondent

Clayoquot is a large area of rain forest beside the sea, in the northwest quarter of Vancouver Island. The forest stretches for a hundred and fifty miles along that west shore of the island and 40 miles inland, an area that covers perhaps a quarter of the island with trees that are several hundred years old.

In 1996, part of that ancient forest was about to be cut. Many people came to stop the company's big trucks carrying logs from the forest. All summer people came, dozens of them arriving while others were leaving. People were on the road stopping the logging trucks day and night.

Their theories and practices were non-violent. But, by summer's end, the police had gathered and arrested 800 people, business people and stay-at-home people, many with their children. At the end, all were put in jail. The first 44 people arrested for stopping trucks on the road were given 60 days in jail and fines of \$1,500 to \$3,000. A second and larger group were put in jail for 21 days, and each one fined \$500.

The Clayoquot First Nation people sought an injunction to prevent MacBlo from ravaging their river in the Clayoquot Valley. They claimed that logging roads were blocking the river and killing spawning salmon, while the cutting and hauling of

logs were damaging the Nation People's ancient countryside.

The protests worked and the forest was saved. Clayoquot Sound is now a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, a designation aimed at promoting conservation and sustainable development. There is still no road for people to drive into it. Some forest areas will be cut, but there will be seven new large parks, north and by the sea. All seems well.

But a newspaper in July this year said loggers have been given the right to cut trees in the southern part of Clayoquot. I hope that forest is saved again. Y.

I have appended a news report from last summer:

#### **from CBC.ca Aug. 2, 2006**

Environmental groups in British Columbia are warning there could be a new "war in the woods" now that tens of thousands of hectares of Clayoquot Sound have been opened to logging.

"This is our worst nightmare," Tzeporah Berman, program director of the group ForestEthics, told CBC News.

The logging decision affects 90,000 hectares of pristine forest on the west coast of Vancouver Island, much of which had remained untouched.

The land was reopened to possible logging in a decision last week by the provincially appointed Clayoquot Sound Central Region Board. The board

and five Nuu-chah-nulth nations agreed to a new watershed management plan that could include road-building and logging.

"We've signed a memorandum of understanding with the First Nations agreeing there would never be logging," Berman said.

Berman, who helped organize the original blockades, warned reporters the logging decision could trigger a new wave of protest. "I hope it's not going to come to that," she said.

Clayoquot Sound was the site of massive demonstrations in 1993 when environmentalists — angry with both logging companies and the provincial government — attempted to block road in

an effort to keep loggers away. The summer protest became known as the war in the woods.

The protestors also called for an international boycott of B.C. forest products.

More than 800 people were arrested and thousands came from around the world to take part in the largest organized act of civil disobedience ever witnessed in the province.

In 1999, an agreement was reached laying out which areas in Clayoquot could and could not be logged. However, that agreement has evolved over time leading up to last week's decision.

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## Ontario Nature 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala

This year marks Ontario Nature's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We thank all of our Nature Network clubs, members, supporters and partners for sharing our commitment to protect nature in Ontario. You are all a vital part of our efforts.

In celebration of this milestone, we invite you to attend Ontario Nature's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala on Tuesday, November 14, 2006 at the Royal Ontario Museum's Currelly Gallery.

We look forward to reflecting on our collective accomplishments, paying tribute to our founding clubs and sharing our vision for the future with you at this special gathering.

Entertainment and a silent auction featuring outstanding artwork and unique items — such as Charles Sauriol's walking stick and the signed artist's proof of Roger Tory Peterson's *Puffin* — will highlight the evening. Distinguished speakers include the Honourable David Ramsay, Minister of Natural Resources, and the Honourable Jim Bradley, Minister of Tourism.



We thank you for your continued support and look forward to celebrating with you on November 14<sup>th</sup>.

Yours sincerely,

Rosemary Speirs, Caroline Schultz,  
President Executive Director

P.S. Please pass this invitation on to other members of your club!

Tuesday, November 14, 2006  
Currelly Gallery, Royal Ontario Museum  
100 Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario  
7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$85

Kindly RSVP to Chemayne D'souza at 416-444-8419 / 1-800-440-2366 ext. 271 or [gala@ontarionature.org](mailto:gala@ontarionature.org) by October 20, 2006.

Download and keep or print a copy of a [special invitation](#) (PDF 1.8M) and [reply card](#) (PDF 41k).

A \$55 charitable receipt will be issued for a portion of the ticket price under Charitable Registration No. 10737 8952

R0001. Proceeds from the gala reception will help us fund our youth education programs.

### NEXT MEETING:

Prof. Maydianne Andrade of UofT's Scarborough campus will speak on "The Mating Strategies of Cannibalistic Spiders" on Oct. 17 at 7:30 p.m in the usual location, Room 432 of the Ramsay Wright Zoological Laboratories.

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