

W. Saunders
Feb 12/41

57-1047

Dep

FALLS

THE
BRODIE
CLUB



FLEMING MEMORIAL
PAPERS

(Read Nov. 5, 1940)

THE J. H. FLEMING MEMORIAL PROGRAM -- NOV. 5, 1940.

Chairman -- A. F. Coventry

"Members of the Brodie Club and Visitors: This evening we are to commemorate the life of Mr. J. H. Fleming, for long an honorary member of this Club. We are glad to have with us others, who like us, had the privilege of knowing Mr. Fleming and of enlarging their appreciation of nature in the light of his wisdom.

"We are especially glad to welcome to this meeting Mr. Tom Fleming, that we may show him -- what he doubtless knows already -- how large a place his father had in the respect and affection of his fellow-naturalists.

"Several of our members, active and corresponding, have prepared papers about various aspects of Mr. Fleming's life and work. One of them, Mr. P.A. Taverner, had intended to come here this evening from Ottawa to present his; he is, however, unfortunately kept in Ottawa by an illness of his wife, happily, I understand, not serious, but he has sent his paper and it will be read by proxy.

"No further remarks seem necessary and I call upon the first speaker, Mr. L. L. Snyder to present his paper, 'James Henry Fleming, 1872-1940'."

"Mr. Chairman, Members of the Brodie Club and visitors: It has been arranged that each of the several speakers tonight will remark on a particular period or phase of the life of our late Honourary Member, James Henry Fleming. My remarks will be somewhat introductory; I shall attempt to sketch, very briefly, his life as a whole, adding here and there my evaluation and appreciation, of the person and of his work.

"Mr. Fleming died at his home in Toronto on June 27 of this year. The Brodie Club has lost a keenly interested member. Few of us have been more regular in attending our meetings or in contributing to our programme than was Mr. Fleming and I am sure not one of us has derived more satisfaction from these associations. We shall hear more later of his active part in the Brodie Club from our Secretary.

"It is fitting and timely that the Brodie Club should commemorate James Henry Fleming. He was one of us, but we are fully aware that his passing is not of mere local concern. Mr. Fleming was a world figure in the science of birds. He will be missed for a long time to come throughout the ornithological world.

"In submitting a brief appreciation of the life and work of James Henry Fleming, I shall exclude all but the more necessary statistics. Fleming's father, James Fleming, came to Canada (Montreal) from Aberdeen, Scotland in 1834 at the age of twenty-four. In 1836 he established a pioneer seed-growing business on a three-acre plot now marked by Yonge and Elm Streets, Toronto. After the death of his first wife, he married Mary Elizabeth Wade, daughter of a family of English descent living near Port Hope, Ontario. James Henry, the only child of this union who survived, was born on July 5,

1872. There was a half-sister in the home, from his father's previous marriage, but no brothers. The father was a man sixty years of age when James Henry was born. I suggest that some of these facts contribute to an understanding of Mr. Fleming's personality as we knew it so well.

"James Henry Fleming's education was obtained in Toronto. As a child he attended the Model School in St. James Square, a school still maintained in conjunction with the adjacent teachers' training institution. Often, many of us have listened to Fleming remark on the happenings of those days, - happenings which ranged from notable historical events to pranks of the 'boys', and I am inclined to believe that in all these, the boy, Fleming, was an interested on-looker. I could never visualize Fleming as a prankster even as a youth.

"After passing through the grades of the Model School, Fleming entered Upper Canada College. This institution, more or less patterned after the English schools, undoubtedly had an effect on Fleming, moulding his courteous, almost English, manner.

"Fleming's formal education ended with the secondary school but his learning ceased only with his death. He read a great deal, not only in the field of ornithology but in other affairs. He kept in touch with current political and business events and held strong, conservative opinions on such matters. As a matter of taste, he read travel, historical and biographical works extensively.

"It is not possible to fully account for the origin of Fleming's interest in birds. His father, aside from being a business man and community leader (Alderman, St. John's Ward, 1877-79 inclusive), was a scientific gardener and contributed to the literature on horticulture. This may account for James Henry's subsequent interest in plant culture -- in his greenhouse and garden -- but I am inclined to believe that the study of birds was a spontaneous and self-cultivated hobby of the boy which developed without particular influence of others and continued without interruption as the life-work of the man. In his later youth, but after his interests were fixed, he no doubt was influenced by Dr. Wm. Brodie whose name is perpetuated by this club.

"We know that Fleming's interest in birds was evident when he was twelve years old. The nest and eggs of the Vesper Sparrow in his collection were collected and prepared by him in 1884. The idea of building a study collection occurred in 1886, at the age of fourteen, according to Fleming's own recorded recollection.

"It is interesting to note at this point that the Fleming collection was, from the first, not merely a local one; bird skins, numbers 1 and 2, are specimens of the King-of-the-Paradise Birds. Cinnurus regius, from New Guinea! And, as recorded in his register, a South American Hummingbird was bought by him for 30c. when he was a boy at Model School. Another entry explains that six other hummingbirds were purchased from a bankrupt millinery stock in 1884 or '85 for 10c. each, the money having been saved from his school lunch allowance. I think Mr. Fleming would

have done the same thing in recent years, if necessary. Some recollections of Mr. Fleming's youth will be recalled later by our corresponding member, Mr. Deacon whom we hope to have with us tonight. I shall include here only one or two matters on record.

"In March 1889, at the age of sixteen, Fleming had become an associate member of the Canadian Institute (now, the Royal Canadian Institute) and four years later he was a member of the Council of its Biological Section. In 1893 Fleming was elected an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union.

"During the latter years of the last century, organized, local, natural history interest was declining. Fleming was the individual who persisted and kept "the light" burning for the ensuing "dark age". The Biological Society of Ontario collapsed apparently in 1894, during which year its last publication was printed,-- No.4 of the "Biological Review of Ontario." In that number there appeared a short article by Fleming describing a male Cory's Bittern specimens which he states, 'is now in my possession.' The words which I have emphasized were to be used by Fleming a good many times subsequently. He certainly was an alert and diligent collector, and fortunately for natural history he assumed the responsibility which a public institution might have been expected to assume. There was an existing Provincial Museum, housed in the Normal School at Toronto, but, as subsequent events have proven, it did not enjoy sufficiently strong, popular support. Interested as he was in the museum idea none of us can imagine Mr. Fleming out campaigning for support of a public institution. He was, simply, not built that way. But there was something he could do, as events have also proven. He could create a one-man museum. He not only had the interest, the knowledge and the foresight, but also the means. What had been a seed-growing acreage on Elm Street became valuable property in the centre of a large and growing city. This, and probably other good fortunes, rendered him independent; he could travel, buy collections and books, study and keep up the ornithological contacts made in many parts of the world, with only occasional attention to business.

"More about the period from the late 90's and early 1900's will be told by our Honourary Member, Mr. Taverner, a life-long friend of Mr. Fleming. Unfortunately Mr. Taverner could not be here as he intended but our Chairman has kindly consented to read Taverner's paper.

"Fleming was never a practised preparator, or what we call a "field-man",-- partly for constitutional reasons and because of the pressure of other things to do. But he did enjoy direct observations of living birds in the field. He collected and studied in Parry Sound and Muskoka districts and he made occasional trips to other areas in southern Ontario, such as the Bruce Peninsula, Kettleby in King Township, Niagara Glen and Point Pelee. A.O.U. meetings were the occasion for glimpses of the field in more distant places and in 1907 a special trip was made to Tennessee. Between 1889 and 1893 he travelled extensively in Europe and also to British Guiana and the West Indies. These trips were not strictly field ornithological expeditions

but they served to widen his acquaintance with living birds and afforded opportunity to gather impressions of regions from which his specimens had or were to come.

"I first met Mr. Fleming in his Museum at 267 Rusholme Road, the address so familiar to all of us. As a rather callow ornithologist and fellow museum worker, I made an appointment and called on him. There was no particular point of business, merely a desire on my part to meet a well known figure in my field of interest but who was inexplicably outside the Museum sphere with which I had become recently connected. I felt at ease, but it was not Fleming's nature to radiate an effusive welcome under such circumstances. We sat and talked about birds, and smoked his cigars. How easily, pleasant habits are formed! From that day to within a few days of his death it was my habit to visit Mr. Fleming with increasing regularity to talk about birds and bird problems, and, I must admit,-- often to smoke his cigars.

"I have already mentioned that Fleming was, at the time I met him, a well known figure in ornithological circles. As early as 1905 he had attended the International Ornithological Congress in London. Subsequently he served on its committees and attended their meetings as official representative of Canada,-- at Copenhagen in 1926; Amsterdam in 1930; Oxford in 1934; and Rouen in 1938.

"Fleming was made a Member of the American Ornithologists' Union when this class was established in 1901. He was elected a Fellow in 1916. From 1923 to 1926, Fleming was a member of its Council where his general knowledge and business ability were no doubt very useful. From 1926 to 1932 he was a Vice-President of the Union. He was elected to the Presidency, at the second Canadian meeting of the Union, at the city of Quebec in 1932. He held this office until 1936. Fleming regarded the honour as a mark of recognition to Canadian ornithologists in general. Although the Union has had more dominating leaders, it has never had a President more sincerely interested in the welfare of the Union. He presided at its meetings in his brief, quiet manner. I know that the demands of the office, its prominent and public role, created conflict within him taxed his physical strength. But, no doubt, he derived much satisfaction in having attained this office.

"I shall not include here a list of the honours bestowed upon Fleming, the ornithologist. There were many. All I shall say is that, foreign recognition came first; native or local recognition, last. To the credit of the National Museum, it was the first to recognize his standing and made him an Honourary Curator in 1913. The Brodie Club was next, making him an Honourary Member in 1923.

"With reference to Mr. Fleming's accomplishments as an author of ornithological papers, I must be brief. His bibliography has been compiled and it runs into more than eighty titles. This is a considerable record in itself, but it should be added that he was a helpful accessory to a good deal of ornithological work not of his own authorship.

This we can discover in reading the acknowledgment of authors of the past forty years. (A number of Fleming's papers have been brought here for your inspection if you have the opportunity).

"Fleming as a collector represented an era in ornithology when individuals devoted their lives and fortunes to the accumulation and preservation of specimens and facts, the primary function of a museum. I have already mentioned that he possessed the means, the knowledge and the foresight to make a major contribution to science in this work. In addition, his enthusiasm, his memory and his constant, patient persistence served him well. He could pursue a watchful-waiting policy when necessary. Let me tell one amusing story which illustrates this point. (Some of you have no doubt heard it from Mr. Fleming).

"The only Toronto record of the Curlew Sandpiper (Erolia testacea) was based on a specimen shot about 1826, by -----, and there our story begins. This bird, a mount, was displayed in a case in a local gun club. Fleming knew it well. Each of two hunters claimed to have shot it. This led to a rather heated dispute between them which one day culminated in a scuffle during which the case was broken into. The bird disappeared. One of the contestants had rather ruthlessly extracted it, and when the smoke cleared, part of one leg was discovered attached to the artificial rock-work of the case and the head was found on the floor. The head was taken, by someone, to Samuel Herring, the local taxidermist who had mounted the bird. Fleming who had learned the details of the bird's dismemberment eventually acquired the head for preservation, about 1894. On February 2, 1911, Fleming recognized the body of the Curlew Sandpiper in a case of mounted waders in the possession of George Pearce! Pearce revealed that he had obtained it from the shooter who had escaped with it from the gun club. In the meantime the body had acquired a new head and a new leg, apparently from a Red-backed Sandpiper! But, all trace of this case of birds was lost until October 4, 1932 when it was re-discovered in a local school-room. The specimen, (mostly Curlew Sandpiper) was still in it. Through proper channels it was removed and transferred to the Fleming collection. Thus was the body and head of the only Ontario specimen of the Curlew Sandpiper reunited after more than forty years, in that haven of rarities, the Fleming collection.

"This story aside from illustrating Fleming's perception and persistence, suggests with what pleasure and satisfaction he sometimes collected.

"If I were asked to classify Fleming, the ornithologist, as to his particular forte, I would make two statements,-- first, Fleming was an ornithological historian. What he knew about collectors, collections, expeditions, ornithologists and their work was tremendous. He knew the peculiarity of a collector's "make" of skin, his labels, handwriting, where and when he had collected, and particularly, what had become of his collection. He could tell many interesting anecdotes concerning the history of individual specimens or of whole collections. Perhaps, as is so often the case, Fleming thought these details too insignificant to be worthy of record, or perhaps by the time he had acquired this store of information

he then lacked the energy necessary to compile it and see it into print. A volume of facts and lore died with him, but all men leave work unfinished.

"Second, Fleming was an ornithological advisor and stabilizer. His opinions were usually conservative and firmly held. Often he would introduce unusual points into a discussion born of his wide knowledge and interest in birds of the world. He knew well when points were unproven and candidly cautioned against overstatement. He consistently used his influence to moderate and avoid controversy. After a dignified and quiet interjection he would retreat from any issue resembling a quarrel. To these ornithological qualifications, I would like to add, that Fleming was most thoughtful towards others. No letter was left unanswered; a paper received was acknowledged (and a high percentage of this literature was read); a piece of work well done was rewarded by his comment. A news clipping, a cartoon, or perhaps a trinket, which he thought to be appropriate to an occasion was duly forwarded to the proper person, usually accompanied by some sparkling bit of his own wit. And, Fleming had an extraordinary sense of the appropriate. Above all, Fleming was a gentleman.

"It had not been possible here to attempt more than a sketch of the personality and life work of the one we have lost. It is not from lack of data; his letters, his diaries (started in 1888) and scrap book would all add something to the story of his habits, his work and his philosophy. Mr. Baillie will later tell us something about this phase of his interest and work. Many times I have noticed a portfolio which rested for years within arm's reach of his desk. It is labelled "Notes of no value except to myself". The news clippings, announcements, poetry, jokes, personal notes, etc., in that volume would yield a chapter for a more extended review. His notes on birds and bird observations were kept up to date until near the end. On his desk at the time we removed his collection in July,-- the desk which for years faced the big window overlooking the lovely garden,-- there was a slip of paper on which was written in pencil, -- "June 3, 1940. A Connecticut Warbler in greenhouse." Aside from reading the letters from his friends which he regretfully could not answer, this marked the close of his work with birds and students of birds.

"The big harvest of Fleming's life work has not been emphasized. I refer to the Fleming collection and library. Mr. Shortt will tell us about the collection and Mr. McDougall will give us an account of the library.

"Although we are now to be deprived of the rich and varied store of information which James Henry Fleming's mind possessed, his contributions to our literature, his specimens and books, and the countless interesting ornithological odds and ends, remain to enrich our science. His collections, though privately possessed, had been thoughtfully and generously held in trust for the eventual enrichment of a Canadian institution, indeed for the benefit of all mankind. They represent a life-long labour of love, and in our analysis, a monument to the man.

"May I add in closing, that the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology which was chosen as the final repository for the Fleming Museum is indeed

fortunate. The entire staff was deeply appreciative of James Henry Fleming, the friend and advisor; they are grateful for his bequest, and thankful that we are in a position to accept, care for, and use the treasure of science and the sources of knowledge, left to the Museum by him.

Chairman:

"I next call on Mr. E. G. McDougall to read his paper on --

" The Fleming Library "

"Mr. Chairman, Members and visitors: In addition to his great ornithological collection, our distinguished associate bequeathed an important ornithological library to the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology. My count of the bound volumes alone comes to some 2,214 items, while the total of pamphlets, separates and other unbound pieces will raise the grand total to more than 10,000. It is possible to indicate only briefly the general character of the contents of this aggregation.

"More than half of the library deals directly with birds. There are complete or long runs of many bird periodicals, such as the IBIS (the only complete set in Toronto); the AVICULTURAL MAGAZINE; BRITISH BIRDS; several French and German periodicals, and the more familiar AUK, BIRD-LORE, CONDOR, OOLOGIST and WILSON BULLETIN. There is also a remarkable series of separates, the Ornithologica Miscellanea, bound together in volumes approximately according to date. There were 163 volumes, formerly the property of F. Nicholson; two were mislaid in shipping, and never reached Mr. Fleming's library. Needless to say, I heaved a sigh of relief when an additional volume with a complete index to the set came in sight.

"It seemed convenient to divide the bird books on a geographic system. Some two hundred and forty-five volumes dealt with the birds of North America or of some of its sub-divisions; 170 dealt with birds of Europe, including 45 county lists in Great Britain; while Africa, Asia, Australia and South America were represented by from 29 to 37 volumes each. One hundred and sixty-five volumes dealt with birds in general, or were monographs of special groups.

"Perhaps the most valuable work here is the first Royal Octavo edition of Audubon's Birds of America. There are two other editions of the same work, but they lack the plates; so the one first mentioned has pride of place. There are several editions of such standard works as those of Wilson and Bonaparte (including First of each), and of Nuttall. There are several folios dealing with birds of Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand, etc. A copy of Azara's Oiseaux du Paraguay, once the property of Baron de la Fresnaye, may be mentioned as one of the rarer works.

"Besides the books dealing specifically with birds, there are a number of works on Natural History in general; no less than 349 books fall into this class, in which I have included works with such titles as "A Naturalists in Celebes". Among the older works under this head may be

mentioned the "Natural History of Norway" by Bishop Pontoppidan. The Field Museum of Natural History records with satisfaction its recent acquisition of this work. It is unfair that this scholarly work should be chiefly remembered by the chapter on rare sea-monsters and particularly by the description of the Kraken.

"In the Natural History Section, it should be said that there are no less than thirty-seven books dealing with Gilbert White, most of them the various editions of the Natural History of Selborne.

"Some 44 books deal with the natural history of Mammals, and 18 with other groups, chiefly fishes and butterflies. There are 17 works on Botany, and a like number that deal chiefly with Geology, Archaeology and Anthropology.

"There are 272 books dealing with Geography, Travel and Sport in various parts of the world; the line between such works and those that can be regarded as Natural History is not always easy to draw, but the title and the reputation of the author give some clue. Such a work as Hornaday's "Two Years in the Jungle" goes inevitably into the latter class, since the author is a noted naturalist, and is describing his experiences as a collector. There are 63 works that come under the head of Biography and letters; 49 works of reference (dictionaries, atlases and the like); and about 18 that treat of Museums and Zoos, not counting catalogues of bird collections. Seven books have to do with the technique of collecting, taxidermy and photography. Thirteen works are sufficiently recondite to be reckoned as Philosophy; and I do not know where else to put a certain work entitled "How to Tell your Friends from the Apes."

"There are about 120 filing cases of unbound separates and perhaps an equal bulk of separates as yet unsorted; it will, no doubt, be found advisable to follow the plan of the former owner and file separates alphabetically under the name of the author.

"There are several periodicals that have not been mentioned, such as a complete file of the ZOOLOGIST from 1843 to 1916 (after which it was amalgamated with BRITISH BIRDS). There are files, partly bound, of the Novitates Zoologicae of Tring, and of the Transactions of the Zoological Society of London, and a long unbound file of the Proceedings of the same society.

"Mr. Fleming's former office in the Museum, has been filled with bookshelves to accommodate this collection; and at the same time additional shelves have been placed in the main library of the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology. The two collections are being slowly assimilated, so that eventually the small room will serve chiefly for storage for books not in common use; but care is being taken to mark everything from Mr. Fleming's collection with his personal stamp, so that its history may not be lost. The Fleming Library fills a long felt need of the Museum and will for all time be an inestimable aid to research."

Chairman:

"I next call on Mr. Jas. L. Baillie to read his paper on --

'The Journals of J. H. Fleming, 1888-1940''

"Mr. Chairman, Members and visitors: Among the many manuscripts possessed by Mr. Fleming an account might be given of the English diaries of Charles Fothergill who came to Toronto in 1816 and became the first naturalist of southern Ontario; or of the journals of John Nielson, who kept a record of the birds at Quebec City between 1850 and 1886; or of the journals of Walter Brett, who made a collection of birds in the 'eighties' and 'nineties' at various places including Nova Scotia, Niagara Falls, Manitoba and California; or of the journals of J. Hughes Samuel, who was one of Toronto's most active ornithologists between 1894 and 1901.

"These and other irreplaceable documents are all to be found in Mr. Fleming's library. However, remarks on these interesting records can await a future programme. I shall confine myself to the most priceless items in the effects of Mr. Fleming -- his own personal journals. These run through four large, closely-written volumes and cover a period of 52 years (from 1888 to 1940).

"The care with which Mr. Fleming maintained his journal is remarkable. In it he recorded his daily observations, the weather, little biographical notes on naturalists of his acquaintance, accounts of his numerous trips abroad to visit museums in the Old World, or to attend meetings of the International Ornithological Congresses, accounts of his yearly trips to attend A.O.U. meetings, his occasional visits to Point Pelee as a member of the Great Lakes Ornithological Club, his frequent visits to Muskoka and Parry Sound Districts and a record of his local observations.

"However, it is primarily a record of natural-history conditions at Toronto, and constitutes the best and most extensive record of that sort that we have for this area. Much of the observation was made in his own spacious garden on Rusholme Road.

"The large number of species observed by Mr. Fleming in his garden and the great mass of data accumulated in his journal about them is, I think, an outstanding example of what can be learned of the natural history of a small area, even though it be completely enveloped in a thickly populated district. As an example of the number of forms which can be seen in so restricted area in a short time, I can refer to the spring migration of 1934. The season was backward and birds, when they did come, came in swarms. On May 17 of that year Mr. Fleming made his record day's list for his garden - 25 species, which is remarkable. It may be interesting at this point to read that list: English Sparrows, Starlings, Robins, Grackles, Flickers, several White-crowned Sparrows, Lincoln's Sparrow, several White-throated Sparrows, several Oven-birds, several Veeries, several Hermit Thrushes, Humming-bird, Alder Flycatcher, Catbird, several Baltimore Orioles, unidentified vireo, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, House Wren, two Nashville Warblers, Myrtle Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Parula Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, two Maryland Yellow-throats and Magnolia Warbler.

"Mr. Fleming possessed an unusual mind in several respects. Often, details which most of us would fail to note, were recognized by him as significant. Many of these found their way into his journal.

"The extracts which I shall read on this occasion have been selected from the journals more or less at random, and shall be read verbatim, in most cases. It is thought that they will convey some conception of the breadth of Mr. Fleming's interests and knowledge, of the meticulousness with which he recorded his thoughts and observations over a period of more than half a century and of the sympathetic interest and understanding he showed toward other workers in his chosen field.

"The first entries constitute a list of birds which he collected in the old garden on Elm Street in 1888. These early specimens, which were mounted on little stands, are still preserved in the Fleming collection. It is, I think, typical of Mr. Fleming that each of the specimens he had collected during his teen-age was fully labelled and carefully preserved through all these years. Needless to say that little collection of downtown Elm Street birds is one that could scarcely be duplicated today.

"The first daily entry was for March 9, 1889. This note records the observation of a flock of Purple Finches feeding on mountain ash berries in Queen's Park.

"An entry under date of June 25, 1889 states, 'Went to Scarborough with the Biological Section of the Canadian Institute and enjoyed the day very much.' Mr. Fleming was then 17 years of age. It is interesting to note that the following men were members of the Biological Section of the Institute at that time and are now members of the Brodie Club,-- Hubert Brown, Ed. Deacon, John Edmonds and E. V. Rippon. Our Corresponding Member, Alfred Kay, was also a correspondent of the earlier society.

"An entry of October 14, 1891 reads, 'Saw a fox come out of the yard at Hanlan's Hotel (Toronto Island) -- and found out it belonged to no one.'

"About April 1, 1892 Mr. Fleming moved from Elm Street to 267 Rusholme Road at which time he remarks, 'There is a great deal of open land about us and there are no homes on Dovercourt, west side, except Thompsons just behind us.'

"On June 6, 1892 Mr. Fleming wrote in his journal, 'This evening the Keefer boys (who lived opposite the Fleming's on Rusholme Road) came running over to say there was a strange bird in the oak just outside the fence (250 Rusholme Road). I was surprised to find the bird to be a wild pigeon. I watched it for a long time and returned to the house and got the little 410 collecting gun and shot at the pigeon -- it flew towards Ossington Avenue, wounded. I saw it very clearly on the wing and there is no doubt of its identity.....' I can remember Mr. Fleming remarking that that was the only Passenger Pigeon he ever saw alive and the date was one of the last for this region.

"Mr. Fleming's garden has always been an oasis to birds and a strange visitor was recorded under date of July 17, 1892. Obviously he had caged birds at home at the time for he writes on that date,-- 'When I got up this morning I saw an (American) Crossbill sitting on the cage and I went downstairs to-----catch it, thinking it was one of my birds escaped. I soon saw it was a visitor to the one I had caged.....It came back and went in (to the cage)---and I secured it.' On the following day another visited the garden.

"An amusing incident is faithfully recorded in Mr. Fleming's notes for 1898 to the effect that a set of sandpiper eggs found on the ground at Simcoe Island, near Kingston, that year by an eastern Ontario natural-ist and reported by him to be the first eggs of the Solitary Sandpiper known to science, had been sold to Miss Jean Bell of Philadelphia for \$100. Later it developed that the eggs were simply Spotted Sandpiper's, the parents having been misidentified!

"On March 28, 1893 Mr. Fleming states that ' E. F. Handy saw a Pileated Woodpecker in the old cricket grounds between Bloor St. and the University, Queen's Park. There is no chance of a mistake as he is familiar with the bird.' That was the last Pileated to be seen right at Toronto until 1932, when our member, F. H. Emery saw one at Hanlan's Point, though a few persisted not far from the city in the neighbourhood of Georgetown.

"September 24, 1905 - 'In the garden--in the afternoon I caught a Robin which I will release with a ring, Number 1.' This was one of the earliest banding attempts in North America and is referred to by F. C. Lincoln in his recent (1933) history of bird-banding on this continent.

"Mr. Fleming, particularly in his younger days, did a fair amount of local collecting and as an evidence of the changed conditions locally we read under date of May 16, 1906,--*Started for the Humber at 5 a.m. along Bloor St. Got there at 6 a.m.--reached home at 8.30 a.m. coming down the Belt Line and then east to Grenadier Pond and thence through High Park to Bloor St. Shot Tennessee Warbler, Wilson's Thrush, pair of Yellow Warblers, Scarlet Tanager.....'

"At Point Pelee on May 20, 1906, Mr. Fleming secured the only Chuck Will's Widow that has ever been recorded from Canada. The journal entry reads, 'On the 20th Swales and I put it up from the ground about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from base of point. It lit in a red cedar and we had a good view of it; I shot it and it proved to be a male.' Significantly he adds later, 'it was my first visit to Point Pelee.'

"Not all of Mr. Fleming's written records concerned birds. The variety among the entries is shown by the next two extracts under date of September 1, 1906: 'At Dufferin St. below King----I saw what I took to be falling brown leaves--which I found to be red Monarch (butterflies) Anosia plexippus, of which there must have been many thousands. I have no doubt that these butterflies were preparing to migrate as the lake shore is only a few hundred yards south and they seemed to be confined to a half acre of pasture--the butterflies--fluttering about the lower branches

and up to the middle (of the trees),' On August 25, 1908 Mr. Fleming noted: 'In garden--I found a Red Bat (Lasiurus borealis) hanging up in a cherry tree and caught it alive!

"Again on July 27, 1909 he found a Yellow-billed Cuckoo's nest in his garden in an alder, with broken egg shells under the nest. On August 27, 1912 he wrote, 'a young Purple Finch in garden;--being fed by parent and must have been raised in garden or very near it; first time I have seen young here.' Both the Yellow-billed Cuckoo and Purple Finch are very rare breeders at Toronto and their selection of Mr. Fleming's garden as a nesting site seems a tribute to his interest in them. Brushpiles, dead trees and the like were carefully left whenever possible as shelter for birds.

"On June 3, 1916 Mr. Fleming wrote, 'My old friend, John Bickerton Williams died in Toronto on May 28, aged 68 years---Mr. Williams had a wide knowledge of the birds of the world and for 25 years I have regarded him as a friend and his death is to me a loss that is irreparable.'

"The first local Carolina Wren appeared in Mr. Fleming's garden on May 20, 1917. Such interesting birds were often wisely transformed into specimens which prove occurrence.

"Some idea of the tremendous increase which has taken place in the Black Squirrels inhabiting Toronto may be gained from the following entry dated September 13, 1918. 'A Black Squirrel was in the garden this morning. It has been reported as being about for the last week but I have not seen it until today. Certainly this is the first black squirrel we have had in the neighbourhood since I moved here 26 years ago, probably from the High Park colony which has been increasing of late years. The High Park colony is indigenous and till the last three or four years were always black, no grays till recently.'

"On November 4, 1918 is recorded the following note: 'Tom put up a Saw-whet Owl from the barberry bush at bottom of garden today,--the first as far as I remember being seen in the garden.'

"Under date of July 20, 1920 Mr. Fleming wrote, 'Papers today report John Macoun dead on July 19 at Sydney, B. C. at the age of 70. My memory of John Macoun goes back at least to 1897 if not earlier, and I shall always retain a memory of his kindness and desire to help.....(He had a) wide knowledge of Canadian birds in the field.....His assurance that there was much he did not know (stamped him) as a true naturalist. His death is the close of an epoch in Canadian natural history. As I remember him in his little office on the ground floor of the old Geological Survey on Sussex Street, Ottawa, his window looking out on the open market, sitting in his chair with botanical papers piled all around on chairs, table and floor; never too busy to stop and talk of birds--as he found them in the open, his son, J. M. Macoun usually working in the same room ready to help with his long experience in the field. He was the best type of the naturalist who went beyond his specialty.'

"On August 24, 1920, Mr. Fleming was the first to see the Starling at Toronto. His entry for that date reads, 'While in the garden about 7.30 this morning (sun-time) watching for migrants I saw a flock of seven birds fly west over the garden passing over Ridout's house just above the elms and as I was at the back of the garden when they passed directly over me and I had a good look at them and instantly decided they were English Starlings the shape of the birds, their flight and the movements of the flock were quite characteristic.'

"Under date of July 25, 1922 Mr. Fleming wrote: 'James S. Wallace died yesterday at Smith's Falls, Ontario, as a result of an accident at Rideau Lake. He is to be buried at Port Elgin, Ontario, tomorrow where he was born in 1868. This is the end of a very dear friend, a good ornithologist, a member of the Great Lake Ornithological Club and the main-spring of our work at Point Pelee. He published nothing but his knowledge was ever at our disposal, he was eminent as a friend, a horticulturist and a business man.' I remember Dr. W. E. Saunders remarking also that it was Jim Wallace who kept the group together at Point Pelee.

"The first mention of the Brodie Club in the journal of Mr. Fleming occurred on May 18, 1924 when he wrote, 'Started at 7.15 a.m. with a party from the Brodie Club. Drove out Bloor to the Humber River then to Cooksville on the Dundas Road and to the Credit River and down Hurontario Street to Port Credit and along the lake to High Park. Day cold and wet. Dr. Walker, Dr. Harrington, Mr. L. L. Snyder in party. We saw about 60 species of birds.' Mr. Fleming had attended the club meetings during the previous six months but the outing recorded was the first field day of the club.

"On February 12, 1926 Mr. Fleming recorded the death of C. W. Nash as follows: 'Charles William Nash died about three p.m. today after a painful illness of three months or more. I have known Mr. Nash certainly since 1893. He was an excellent field collector and for a number of years he collected around Toronto with the late J. Hughes Samuel, securing many rare birds. After Dr. Wm. Brodie's death, Mr. Nash was appointed Provincial Biologist and the position fitted his abilities very well. He was an excellent lecturer and had as good working knowledge of the many branches of zoology. Above all, Mr. Nash was a sportsman in every sense of the word.'

"On August 23, 1927 Mr. Fleming wrote 'Louis Agassiz Fuertes, the ornithological artist was killed in a motor accident yesterday at Unadilla, New York. Fuertes was a great artist at the top of his career and a most lovable character with no trace of professional jealousy, a great field naturalist, and a splendid companion in the field. I met him in 1903 if not before and we were several weeks together in the American west with the A.O.U. trip to California. Since then I have met him almost every year at the A.O.U. meetings, and enjoyed his company as much as I admired his art.'

"The first local specimen of the Golden-winged Warbler was secured (Q) in Mr. Fleming's garden, May 21, 1928.

"On May 17, 1929 Mr. Fleming wrote 'Heard a song, that I vaguely remembered, coming from a cherry tree in the bowling green on the other side of the lane from the garden. I soon found the bird with my glasses and had a clear view of a male Orchard Oriole. This is the first garden record---Late (it)came into the garden.'

"Another unusual visitor, a Short-eared Owl, came into the garden, November 30, 1929.

"An entry under date of May 19, 1932 indicated Mr. Fleming's appreciation of the facilities provided him by the Museum. He wrote, 'Visited Royal Ontario Museum this morning. Zoology is moving from the old wing into the new quarters. Saw the room assigned to me, found it completely furnished (with) desk, chairs, book cases, letter files, etc.' He had been Honorary Curator of Ornithology at the Museum since 1927.

"Under date of March 16, 1934 Mr. Fleming pays tribute to Dr. Davidson Black, in the following words, 'Davidson Black, F.R.S. died yesterday at Pekin, China, at the age of 49. Dio Black as he was known as a boy and till he became a doctor of medicine, was as a youth, a friend and correspondent of mine, and there was hope that he would become a great Canadian ornithologist. His (interests) led him elsewhere to fame, one of the greatest Canadians of his generation. I heard little of him after he left Toronto for Cleveland, till recent years when his fame had become international. Dr. Black spent an afternoon with me in my library on July 6th, 1933 and we had a long talk about his theories of the earth's origin and age. He described his lone automobile journey across China, Persia and India examining the geological features of Asia. A hard worker, a genial companion, the world of science is the loser by his early death.'

"On November 8, 1935 Mr. Fleming had a rare visitor in his garden, a Mockingbird. It remained until the 13th when it succumbed during a fierce blizzard. There had been only three previous Mockingbird records for Toronto and Mr. Fleming's was the first specimen.

"The very last entry in the journals of Mr. Fleming on December 4th, 1939, was a touching tribute to the memory of young Fred Barratt, local bird artist of considerable promise. In his journal for that date Mr. Fleming wrote: 'I am very sorry to have to write finis to one of the most promising bird artists, Frederick Henry Barratt, who died on the 3rd in Toronto in his 22nd year. Fred Barratt I met in the group of young bird men three or four years ago who later formed the Toronto (Ornithological Field) Group and published a mimeographed journal called 'The Chat' which reached.....(seven) numbers. Fred Barratt's bird drawings improved steadily and with the publication of ----('Canadian Nature') his black and white illustrations were good enough to attract attention. Fred Barratt had none of the affectations of the ordinary artist and his steady improvement was counteracted by his failing health. A fine character.'

"Mr. Fleming's 52-year journals end there. The slip of paper to which Mr. Snyder referred was a memorandum for entry. We shall place it in the last volume of his journal for him."