

EDITORIAL

On November 21, 1921, a small group of men met in the laboratory of the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology. There they organized themselves into a Club, which would "afford occasion for the meeting together of naturalists at regular intervals for informal discussion" (Brodie Club Constitution, Article 2). "The Toronto Naturalists' Club" was the name originally chosen but at the 38th meeting, on December 4, 1923, it was changed to THE BRODIE CLUB, in honour of Dr. William Brodie, former Provincial Biologist and a guiding spirit in Toronto natural history circles of an earlier day.

Approximately fifteen years of activity attest to the permanency of the Brodie Club. It was therefore fitting and timely that the Library Committee should recommend, at the 262nd meeting, held on November 3, 1936, that the Club should compile and publish, in inexpensive form, annual 'Proceedings'. This was voted on favourably, and an Editorial Committee, consisting of the Secretary and two additional members, was elected.

In this, the first issue of our 'Proceedings', it has been considered necessary to include some historical and introductory material. Although it is intended that subsequent issues will follow the same general form as this one, more space will be available for the expansion of sections here introduced, and perhaps for the initiation of new ones. Until the Club finds it possible to publish the papers read at its meetings, we do not hope to widen the appeal of the 'Proceedings' beyond our membership. It is hoped that Corresponding Members particularly will find the 'Proceedings' a suitable means of keeping informed of the Club's activities.

PROGRAMMES - CLUB YEAR, 1935-6.

243rd Meeting - Sept. 24, 1935: "Report on Annual Field Day", R. J. Rutter; Nominations; Observations and Reviews.

244th Meeting - Oct. 8, 1935: Elections, Observations and Reviews.

245th Meeting, deferred to Nov. 5, 1935, because of the Toronto Meeting of the A.O.U. (Oct. 21-25); Symposium on "How Far Can Man Control Nature?"; "Rafinesque", J. G. Oughton.

246th Meeting - Nov. 19, 1935: "Salmon Investigation on the Margaree River", Dr. A. G. Huntsman; "Stories and Reminiscences", Ernest Thompson Seton.

247th Meeting - Dec. 3, 1935: "Life on King William Land", L. A. Learmonth; Observations and Reviews.

248th Meeting - Dec. 17, 1935: "The R.O.M.Z. 1935 Expedition", L.L. Snyder, T.M. Shortt and C.E. Hope; Observations and Reviews.

249th Meeting - deferred to Jan. 7, 1936. "Report on Christmas Bird Census", R. J. Rutter; "Life and the Composition of the Sea", Prof. L. Irving; Observations and Reviews.

250th Meeting - Jan. 21, 1936: "Seasonal Reports for 1935"; E. G. McDougall (Weather) Dr. T. M. C. Taylor (Plants), J. G. Oughton (Invertebrates other than Insects), Dr. F. P. Ide (Insects), Prof. J. R. Dymond (Fishes), E. B. S. Logier (Amphibians and Reptiles), J.L. Baillie (Birds), Prof. A.F. Coventry (Mammals).

251st Meeting - Feb. 4, 1936: "Nature Photography", C. Farmer; "Some Technical Aspects of Photography", S. Harrod, Observations and Reviews.

252nd Meeting - Feb. 18, 1936: "The Life of a Trapper north of Churchill, Man." J. Fletcher.

253rd Meeting - Mar. 3, 1936: "A Review of McAtee's Paper on Effectiveness of Protective Adaptation", Dr. F.P. Ide; "Spiders", T.B. Kurata; "Natural History Observations from Anthropological Studies", Prof. T. F. McIlwraith.

254th Meeting - Mar. 17, 1936: "Pleistocene Remains in the Tar Pits of Ranch e la Brea California", L. Sternberg; Observations and Reviews.

255th Meeting - Mar. 31, 1936: Letters from Corresponding Members, C. E. Hope; "On the Southward Movement of Ptarmigan, 1931 - 1934", L. L. Snyder; "Field Marks of the two forms of Black Ducks", Dr. H. F. Lewis; "An Ichthyological Survey of Long Point, Ontario", Dr. A. E. Allin; Observations and Reviews.

256th Meeting - Apr. 14, 1936: "An Appreciation of John Townson", R. E. Bennett; "Prevailing Land Rights on Long Point", J. A. Brodie; "A Review of Griscom's Paper on Problems in Field Identification", F. H. Emery.

257th Meeting - Apr. 28, 1936: "Carnivorous Plants", Dr. T. M. C. Taylor; "Current Opinion on "Are Small Land Birds Becoming Scarce?", J. H. Fleming.

258th Meeting - May 12, 1936: Observations and Reviews; Field Day Plans.

The average attendance of members, at the sixteen meetings held during the year, was approximately twenty-nine.



FIELD DAY

The first field day was held on May 17, 1925, at "Kettleby Kabin", King Twp. Since then, it has become an annual event, usually held on the third Sunday in May. It affords an opportunity for members to get together in a spirit of fellowship. Many leave the preceding Saturday and spend the night under canvas.

The 12th Field day was held on May 17, 1936, near Rattlesnake Point, with twenty-five men participating. Fifteen camped out on a splendid site near the limestone cliffs enclosing the valley. At dusk a large campfire provided the centre for a decidedly informal meeting. Seven species of mammals and eighty-six species of birds were listed during the outing.



CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS

The first Census of the Club was made on Dec. 23, 1925. Since then, it has been an annual event. The census is made on the Sunday nearest Christmas day. To date, a total of 89 species of birds have been recorded for the Toronto region.

The 12th Census was made on Dec. 27, 1936. The observations of the forty-three participants in the field gave a total of forty species of birds, (comprising 1756 individuals). For a detailed report of this census, see the Canadian Field-Naturalist for February, 1937.

From the complete reports of the year, prepared and read by members of the Annual Report Committee at the 267th meeting, the following summary has been prepared. An attempt has been made to use such data as will characterize the year in a way to permit comparisons of one year with another.

The early part of the year was not featured by unusual temperatures or snowfall. There was considerable evidence of a population maximum of Microtus pennsylvanicus in the Toronto region and southern Ontario generally. The presence of Goshawks and large numbers of Redpolls is worthy of mention. The spring received a rather severe set-back by heavy frosts which occurred in mid-May. Many trees had their buds frozen and were consequently late coming into leaf. A scarcity of spring migrant birds was noted.

The summer was exceptionally hot and dry. A temperature of 105°F. was recorded for Toronto on July 9. This was an all-time record. Crops and vegetation generally were greatly affected by the drought. Fleshy fungi were notably scarce. An epidemic of the forest tent caterpillar defoliated the poplar forests of the Transition and southern Canadian areas in the province. Snow-shoe hares and Ruffed Grouse were generally scarce. Starlings appeared to be less numerous than at any time since their invasion.

The early fall was fairly normal, but there was a pronounced drop in temperature with snow in November. A repetition of the Blue and Lesser Snow Goose flight of the previous fall was noted on a smaller scale. The early winter (December) was exceptionally mild, with little snowfall. There was a considerable invasion of northern Horned Owls at this time, and also a few Goshawks.

MEMBERS OF THE BRODIE CLUB

HONORARY MEMBERS

Fleming, J. H. 267 Rusholme Rd.
Hadwen, Dr. S. 5 Foxbar Rd.
Saunders, Dr. W. E. 240 Central Ave., London
Taverner, P. A. Nat'l Museum, Ottawa
Thomson, Prof. R. B. 586 Spadina Ave.
Walker, Dr. E. M. 67 Alcina Ave.

ACTIVE MEMBERS

Baillie, J. L. 2a Elm Grove Ave.
Bell, G. S. 67 Pleasant Blvd.
Bennett, R. E. 199 Brookdale Ave.
Brodie, J. A. 267 Chaplin Cres.
Brown, H. H. 9 Halford Rd.
Campbell, Dr. J. A. 45 Spadina Rd.
Clarke, Dr. C. H. D. Dept. Biol., U. of T.
Coventry, Prof. A. F. Hart House, U. of T.
Cross, E. C. 24 Miranda Ave.
Devitt, O. E. 31 Willowbank Blvd.
Downing, S. C. 58 Lappin Ave.
Dymond, Prof. J. R. 205 Cottingham St.
Edmonds, J. 2 Sultan St.
Emery, F. H. 620 Euclid Ave.
Fallis, A. M. 43 Queen's Park
Harrington, Dr. P. 88 Heddington Ave.
Hope, C. E. 41 Hatherley Road
Ide, Dr. F. P. 93 Isabella St.
LeRay, W. J. 170 Douglas Ave.
Lindsay, R. V. 61 Brookfield St.
Logier, E. B. S. 77 Roehampton Ave.
Macklin, H. G. 20 Triller Ave.
McDougall, E. G. 24 Elgin Ave.
McIlwraith, Prof. T. F. 50 St. Leonards Ave.
Oughton, J. G. 74 Rathnally Ave.
Owens, L. T. 90 Arlington Ave.
Prince, L. A. 639 Ontario St.
Richards, C. D. 20 Brentwood Rd.
Rippon, E. V. 490 Bloor St. W.
Rutter, R. J. Secretary 51 Belcourt Rd.
Shortt, T. M. 26 Balmoral Ave.
Snyder, L. L. 150 Moore Ave.
Southam, H. H. 62 Iaing Ave.
Thompson, S. L. 286 Wychwood Ave.
Urquhart, F. A. 66 Willow Ave.

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

Allin, Dr. A. E. Royal Vic. Hosp., Montreal
Beamer, L. H. Meaford, Ont.
Black, R. D. 100a Admiral Rd., Toronto
Clemens, Dr. W. A. Pac. Biol. Stn., Nanaimo
Corfe, C. E. 355 St. Clarens, Toronto
Deacon, E. J. 194 Wharncliffe S. London
Dear, Col. L. S. Port Arthur, Ont.
Harkness, Prof. W. J. K. Dept. Biol., U. of T.
Hart, Dr. J. L. Pac. Biol. Stn., Nanaimo
Haugh, H. B. Little Lake, Barrie
Hurlburt, Dr. W. E. Vineland, Ont.
Kay, A. Port Sydney, Ont.
Kurata, T. B. 357 Ellis Pk., Toronto
Landon, M. Simcoe, Ont.
Lewis, Dr. H. F. Natl. Pks. Bureau, Ottawa
Lunn, W. H. Hillier, Ont.
MacLulich, Dr. D. A. Mtn. Sanatorium, Hamilton
Munro, J. A. Okanagan Landing, B.C.
Pritchard, Dr. A. L. Pac. Biol. Stn., Nanaimo
Rawson, Dr. D. S. Univ. Sask., Saskatoon
Ricker, Dr. W. E. Vedder Crossing, B.C.
Rowan, Dr. W. Univ. Alta., Edmonton
Starr, Dr. F. A. E. 31 Cedar St., Sudbury
Steenburgh, Dr. W. E. V. Entoml. Bch., Belleville
Sternberg, L. 220 Westlake Ave. Toronto
Stovell, H. P. 9 Hollis Ave., Toronto
Taylor, Dr. T. M. C. 12 Donino Ave., Toronto
Varley, J. A. 150 Albertus Ave., Toronto
Waller, S. Gypsumville, Man.
Watson, W. R. Lawrence Pk. Coll. Toronto
Whelan, R. V. Smoky Falls, Ont.
Wood, A. A. Entoml. Bch., Strathroy
McCowan, D. Banff, Alta.

DECEASED MEMBERS

Ames, J. H. (1853-1935). Mr. Ames was elected an Active Member of the Brodie Club in 1924. He was transferred to Corresponding Membership when he moved to Milton, where he died in 1935 at the age of 83. Mr. Ames was a tailor by trade, but he devoted himself to the study of natural history throughout his whole life. Many of his bird specimens are housed in the Museum. During his later years

he gave much attention to plants, in particular the cultivation of ferns in his garden. He was an expert photographer and took up oil painting as a hobby in later life.

Beaupre, E. (1873-1930). Mr. Beaupre was a Corresponding Member of the Brodie Club from 1926 until his death. A biographical sketch of him appears in the Canadian Field Naturalist for October, 1930.

Bensley, Dr. B. A. (1875-1934). Dr. Bensley was made an Honorary Member of the Brodie Club in 1923. A biographical sketch of his life and work has appeared in the Journal of Mammalogy for August, 1936.

Merriman, R. O. (1882-1934). Mr. Merriman was made a Corresponding Member of the Brodie Club in 1931. At this time he held a position on the staff of Queen's University in the Department of Economics. Mr. Merriman was born with a hopeless physical handicap, but with early encouragement, he developed many active interests. His original home was in Hamilton where he observed birds, and developed a technique for attracting birds to his garden. He has published on this and other subjects. During the latter years of his life, he was engaged in banding Chimney Swifts. His life is a striking example of an active mind surmounting the greatest of physical difficulties. A biographical sketch of him is being prepared for 'The Auk'.

Nash, C.W. (1848-1926). Mr. Nash was made an Honorary Member of the Brodie Club in 1923. His biography appeared in the Canadian Field Naturalist for September, 1927.

Townson, J. (1856-1934). Mr. Townson was an active member of the Brodie Club from 1926 until his death. A brief biography of him appeared in the Canadian Field Naturalist for November, 1935.