

*See p. 1 re Brodie*

OEDAVITT JOINED  
NOV 17, 1936

# THE BRODIE CLUB



PROCEEDINGS  
No. 2

## EDITORIAL

The vignette on the cover of our Proceedings is a silhouette study of Dr. Wm. Brodie by Roy Fisher. It reminds us of two verses in Frank Morris' commemorative poem on Dr. Brodie, "Guide, Philosopher and Friend," published in "The Canadian Entomologist" for November 1909. They are as follows:

"A shock of rebel locks upreared  
Above the forehead bold and high;  
'Neath shaggy brow the deep-set eye  
Challenged enquiry; grizzled beard

Part hid the lip; a man endued  
With power of thought, you read the face;  
The Maker moulds in some for grace,  
For strength those rugged features hewed."

One of the primary purposes of our Proceedings is to keep Corresponding Members informed as to the activities of the Club. Many of our Corresponding Members at one time or another were Active Members. Perhaps to them these brief Proceedings will seem more complete, since to some extent they will be able to read between the lines. We hope that others who have not had so close an association with the Club will find something of interest and perhaps capture some of the spirit of our association from this skeleton of activities.

The Proceedings supersedes our former practice of sending out periodic letters to Corresponding Members. We would still like to hear from members occasionally, though it may be merely an acknowledgment of receipt of the Proceedings.

PROGRAMMES - CLUB YEAR 1936-7.

259th Meeting - Sept. 22, 1936: Chairman - Baillie.  
"Report on Annual Field Day" - Rutter; Nominations;  
Observations and Reviews.

260th Meeting - Oct. 6, 1936: Chairman - Bell. Elec-  
tions; "The Killing of Pileated Woodpeckers in Hali-  
burton County" - Dymond; "The Legend of the Migration  
of the Arctic Tern" - Fleming.

261st Meeting - Oct. 20, 1936: Chairman - Clarke.  
"Household Insects" - Fallis; "Summer Notes - 1936" -  
Oughton; "Wolf vs Deer" - Cross.

262nd Meeting - Nov. 3, 1936: Chairman - Campbell.  
"1936 A.O.U. Meeting, Pittsburgh" - Fleming, Snyder,  
Baillie, McDougall, Emery.

263rd Meeting - Nov. 17, 1936: Chairman - Brodie.  
"Work of the Ontario Fisheries Research Laboratory" -  
Harkness.

264th Meeting - Dec. 1, 1936: Chairman - Emery. "The  
Expedition to Alaska, 1936" - Shortt; Observations  
and Reviews.

265th Meeting - Dec. 15, 1936: Chairman - Cross.  
"Pictures from Alaska" - Shortt; "Brodie Club Minutes  
for Dec. 4, 1926" - Rutter; "Notes from the Zoo" -  
Lindsay.

266th Meeting - Jan. 5, 1937: Chairman - Coventry.  
"Report on Christmas Bird Census" - Rutter; "Distri-  
bution in Ontario" - Birds, Snyder; Mammals, Cross;  
Fishes, Dymond.

267th Meeting - Jan. 19, 1937: Chairman - Downing.  
"Food of Mergansers in B.C." - Munro; "Seasonal Re-  
ports for 1936" - See Proc. No. 1, p. 5.

268th Meeting - Feb. 2, 1937: Chairman - Hope.  
"Seasonal Report on Fishes for 1936" - Dymond; "Wild  
Flowers" - Landon.

269th Meeting - Feb. 16, 1937: Chairman - Dymond.  
"Reminiscences of Dr. W. Brodie" - Frank Morris;  
"Distribution in Ontario" - Insects, Walker; Reptiles  
and Amphibians, Logier.

270th Meeting - Mar. 2, 1937: Chairman - Logier.  
"Distribution in Ontario" - Molluscs, Oughton; Plants,  
Taylor.

271st Meeting - Mar. 16, 1937: Chairman - Fallis.  
"A Food Study of the Short-eared Owl" - Hope; "Ontario  
Crossbills" - Fleming; "The Relation of Size to  
Breeding in Mice" - Coventry.

272nd Meeting - Mar. 30, 1937: Chairman - Harrington.  
"Food of the Kingfisher" - H. C. White; "A Trip to  
California" - Richards.

273rd Meeting - Apr. 13, 1937: Chairman - Snyder;  
"Publicity Work of the Department of Game & Fisheries"  
- J. McCartney; "Migration, Emigration, etc." -  
Urquhart; "Miscellaneous Notes" - Lewis.

274th Meeting - Apr. 27, 1937: Visit to Dunlap Ob-  
servatory at Richmond Hill under the direction of Dr.  
F. S. Hogg.

275th Meeting - May 11, 1937: Chairman - Lindsay.  
Observations and Reviews.



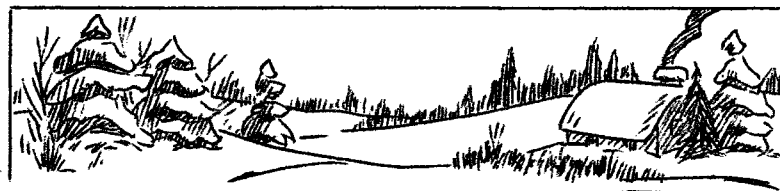
### F I E L D     D A Y

The 13th annual field day was held on May 17, 1937. Twenty-nine men took part in the outing which was at Nancy Lake, on the farm of Col. J. F. H. Ussher in King Township. As usual, a number of members and visitors arrived in the field on Saturday, May 16. Some spent the night under canvas and others made use of the comfortable cabin offered by R. D. Ussher who had extended the invitation to visit the area.

The weather was mostly fair but with temperatures which demanded ample covering out-of-doors. Casual rambles were taken by small groups on Saturday afternoon. The evening was spent in the cabin which fairly bulged with the crowd. Smoke and fluent conversation filled the small building until a late hour at which time the tent-sleepers withdrew for the night.

On Sunday other members arrived. A most enjoyable day was spent in the neighborhood of Nancy Lake which offers great variety of terrain to explore, - farmland, marsh and various types of forest. Eighty-seven species of birds were listed, six mammals and eleven reptiles and amphibians.

A rare opportunity was offered for the study of migrating warblers as they concentrated in a narrow sheltered valley away from the cold wind. A sunny hillside overlooking the alder flats offered a convenient lookout for the Club.



### C H R I S T M A S   B I R D   C E N S U S

The 13th Christmas bird census was held on December 26, 1937. Only thirteen members found it possible to take part. They were as follows: - Baillie, Bell, Bennett, Devitt, Emery, Harrington, Hope, Lindsay, Southam, McDougall, Oughton, Rutter, Snyder. A large number of bird observers in the Toronto region joined with the Club, however, so that forty-two observers were in the field. Eight parties were organized and the usual routes, which have been established by experience, were reconnoitered.

There were two to three inches of snow on the ground in wooded areas but the ground was bare in open situations. Official temperatures for the Toronto region for the day were 23° minimum and 37° maximum.

Fifty-eight species of birds were noted, twelve more than any previous year. The total of individuals was 9,235. Three species previously unrecorded on a Christmas census were the Red-breasted Merganser, Pileated Woodpecker and the Hudsonian Chickadee. These bring the total of species listed on the thirteen consecutive censuses to 92. For a full account of the 1937 census see the report in the Canadian Field-Naturalist - February, 1938, pp. 23-25.

Late Winter Period

There was little snow at Toronto during January and February. Average for this period is 32 inches but this year the total was only 5.6. Rain was above normal and associated with higher mean temperatures. No zero temperatures were recorded. Bird records showed unusual numbers of redpolls and siskins and numbers of evening grosbeaks. Goldfinches, purple finches and pine grosbeaks also were reported. A mocking bird was established in Moore Park during March. Cardinals appeared to have increased locally. Meadow mice were less numerous than a year ago in the Toronto region.

Spring Period

Temperatures and precipitation were approximately normal. No late frosts occurred to affect vegetal growth. Early returning migrant birds such as crows, robins, blue birds and redwings appeared somewhat later than the previous spring, but in general arrival dates were approximately average.

Summer Period

Mean temperatures were slightly above normal but the season was not marked by excessively hot periods. Rainfall averaged approximately normal for the whole period but the fall during June was above normal. Fungi were reported as plentiful. Locally and throughout the northern tier of states and Ontario west to Manitoba there was a marked invasion of humming bird moths (Celerio lineata). The plague of forest tent caterpillars which extended interruptedly through south-central Ontario, west to Lake-of-the-

Woods, continued but had abated this year in the Algonquin Park region. The summer occurrence of Leconte's Sparrow in four localities in Southern Ontario (York, Simcoe and Waterloo Counties) appears to be associated with drought on their range in the west. Yellow rails appeared in some numbers in the Holland River flats. Mole shrews and red squirrels were reported as scarce in most areas. Meadow mice were at a peak of numbers along parts of the transcontinental C.N.R. line.

Autumn Period

There was a relative absence of snow during the autumn. Average fall for November in the Toronto region is 4.2 inches but there was only a trace this year. Rainfall was also below normal but temperatures were somewhat higher. Snowy owls appeared locally and throughout southern Ontario in early November.

Early Winter Period

Precipitation was slightly below normal. Temperatures, higher than normal, increased rain over snow for the period. The Brodie Club Christmas Bird Census gave a total of 58 species which is comparatively high and unusual numbers were also observed at Hamilton and Buffalo. Outstanding among the records were numbers of red-breasted nuthatches. The appearance of Hudsonian Chickadees in King Township, S. Simcoe County, and Ashbridges' Bay was the first since 1890. Reports of pine and evening grosbeaks, white-winged crossbills, and pine siskins were noteworthy. Meadow mice were again quite numerous around the York Downs Golf Course though this species was at a peak of numbers there during the winter of 1935-36.

NOTES

In Proceedings No. 1, page 4, it was stated that 'The first field day was held on May 17, 1925, at Kettleby Kabin, King Township'. This was the second field day, the first having been held on May 18, 1924, in the region between Summerville and the Credit River. Since there was no field day in 1926, the number which have been held to date is thirteen.

In the roll of members given in Proceedings No. 1 page 7, the name of G. C. Toner was inadvertently omitted from the list.

The average attendance for the 17 meetings held during the Club year, 1936-37 was 25.

Membership Changes ----- Club Year 1936-37

Because of leaving Toronto the names of Dr. A. E. Allin and Dr. D. A. MacLulich were transferred from Active to Corresponding Membership on November 3, 1936.

By request and due to the impossibility of attending meetings regularly the names of Mr. C. E. Corfe and Dr. T. M. C. Taylor were transferred from Active to Corresponding Membership on November 17, 1936.

On November 17, 1936, the following men were elected to Active Membership: O.E. Devitt, S. Downing, L. Prince, H. Southam, F. A. Urquhart. This brought the Active Membership up to the limit of 35.