

## EDITORIAL

Every hundredth regular meeting of the Club is intentionally irregular. The 300th meeting, for reasonable reasons, was held outside the Museum, in rooms provided by Dr. Paul Harrington at 813 Bathurst Street. Forty members were present.

At 8.30 P.M., the Chairman, L. L. Snyder, called the meeting to preliminary order. Messages from absent members were read. The following papers were then presented:

"William Brodie (1831-1909)" by J. L. Baillie. This paper, with a bibliography attached was an appreciation of Dr. Brodie by one of a succeeding generation not privileged to know him personally.

"Secretary's Report for the 300th Meeting" by R. J. Rutter. A thoughtful analysis of the Club, its work and the way it works, based on our admirable Minutes.

"Contributions of the Brodie Club to the Museum" by J. R. Dymond. A statement of the value in co-operative contacts between professional and non-professional naturalists and an appreciation of the Club's aid in the Museum's development.

On behalf of the Club the Chairman next presented the Secretary with a bag of silver, etc., mostly etc. E.B.S. Logier was then asked to take the Chair. After a toast to Dr. Brodie the new Chairman offered critical remarks on the three papers which had been read. Undoubtedly he added many points not touched on by the speakers. Other papers were as follows:

"From Bacterium to Baboon", a prospectus, presented by E. G. McDougall. The speaker intimated that the work dealt with a certain County though the author's treatment was so elastic it would fit any area; in fact, the author knew as much about the biota of Palestine as he did of his home country. Naturalists had spoken in "warm" terms about this mighty work.

"The Brodie Club in 2000 A.D." by J. G. Oughton was pre-history writing. After consulting professional guides to the future, (stipends varying from 75¢ to \$3.49) Oughton viewed the Club's 1600th meeting held in Hades. All the familiar personalities were present. Some had turned theologians. Fortunately, Rutter was still Secretary. The 8 o'clock meeting got under way at 8.30. Some beautiful descriptions of activities of members were painted by the speaker, e.g. entomologist members were "collecting specimens from the Chairman's beard."

In conclusion the reasonable reason for holding the 300th meeting outside the Museum was served, followed by a luncheon.

#### PROGRAMMES - 1939

300th Meeting - Jan. 10: (See Editorial pp. 1-2).

301st Meeting - Jan. 24: Chairman, Downing. Business: Motion was passed,--For purposes of the Proceedings the Club year should be from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31. Papers: "Christmas Bird Census", Rutter; "Oliver Spanner (1855-1938)", Fleming; "Seasonal Reports"--McDougall (weather), Taylor (plants), Urquhart (insects), Dymond (fish), Logier (amphibians and reptiles), Baillie (birds), Coventry, per Rutter, (mammals).

302nd Meeting - Feb. 7: Chairman, Devitt. Papers: "Seasonal Reports" (concluded)-Bell (fungi); "Population Cycles in Ontario Fur-bearers", Cross; "The Dodo", Dr. L. S. Russell.

303rd Meeting - Feb. 21: Chairman, Hope. Business: Endorsed a proposal that the National Parks Bureau set aside "restricted nature areas" within the Point Pelee National Park. Passed resolution approving recommendations to the Ontario Department of Education, re biological studies in Middle School. Papers: "Field Work with Spiders at Point Pelee", Kurata; "Field Work with Grasshoppers at Point Pelee", Urquhart.

304th Meeting - Mar. 7: Chairman, McIlwraith. Paper: "Impressions of European Natural History", Walker. Reviews.

305th Meeting - Mar. 21: Chairman, Logier. Papers: "Chas. Fothergill (1782-1840)", Baillie; "Historic Background of the R.O.M.Z.", Dymond; "A Display Habit of the Rufous Hummingbird", Shortt; "Gape-worm in Pheasant and Duodenal Fluke in Cottontail, Ontario", Fallis.

306th Meeting - Apr. 4: Chairman, Lindsay. Papers: "Aquatic Insects in Algonquin Park", Ide; "Some Second-hand Remarks on New Zealand", Snyder; "Geographic Comparisons of Small Mammal Weights (Ontario)", Coventry; "An Early Ms. List of Toronto Fungi", Bell; "Accidental Transport of Archaeological Material by Birds", McIlwraith.

307th Meeting - Apr. 18: Chairman, Southam. Business: Plans for Field Day. Papers: "Historic Problems of Ontario Department of Lands and Forests", Brodie; "The Baton Rouge Meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists", Cross; "On the Personality of Elliott Coues", Downing. Reviews.

308th Meeting - May 2: Chairman, Urquhart. Papers: "A Study of the Cardinal in Ontario", Mr. Wm. Gunn; "The Geology of Patricia, Ontario", Dr. J. Satterly.

309th Meeting - May 16: Chairman, Harrington. Papers: "The Reaction of Birds Toward Individuals in Distress", Lindsay; "Weeds have the Wanderlust", Owens; "The King Crab", Devitt. Observations and Reviews.

#### FIELD DAY

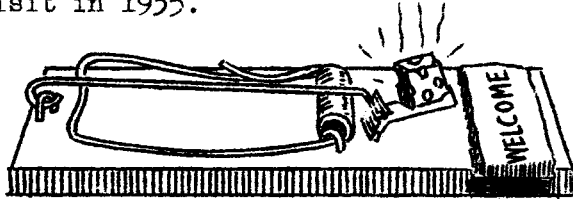
The 15th Annual Field Day was held on May 21, at Glen Major. The Club previously had held an outing here where there are unusually good facilities.

Seven men established camp on the 20th and enjoyed the overnight stay--campfire, discussions (serious and not so serious). Twelve members and two visitors were

present on the 21st. The minimum temperature during the night was well above 40°F. A brief shower in the early morning ushered in a mild, cloudy day with no wind.

A walk along woodland roads and over the high, bare moraine hills was enjoyed on Sunday and many interesting observations were made. One of these concerned insects and erosion: A plague of May beetle larvae during the previous summer had completely killed the turf in patches on several open hill-tops. In some places surface water had already washed out a gully a foot or more across and the silt had spread out and buried many square yards of turf below.

Eighty-two species of birds were recorded during the outing. Trapping operations suggested that small mammals were scarcer here than they were during the Club's visit in 1935.



#### SUMMER

#### PROGRAMMES (Cont'd.)

310th Meeting - Sept. 26: Chairman, Baillie. Business: Nomination for the Secretaryship and for Committees included all persons serving last Club year (Sept. 1938 to May 1939) and no new ones. Consequently, no elections were held the next meeting. See Proc. No. 3, p. 4 for list of officers. Observations and Reviews.

311th Meeting - Oct. 10: Chairman, Bell. Papers: "Life and Work at Smoky Falls, Ontario" (with moving pictures), Whelan; Observations.

312th Meeting - Oct. 24: Chairman, Coventry. Papers: "Plumages of the Scarlet Tanager", Baillie; "Experiments with Live Trapping of Small Mammals", Cross; "The

Toronto Meeting of the American Malacological Union", Oughton; "Ontario Crickets", Urquhart; Observations and Reviews.

313th Meeting - Nov. 7: Chairman, Brodie. Paper: "A Visit to the Reindeer Herd on Richard's Island, McKenzie Delta", Hadwen; Observations.

314th Meeting - Nov. 21: Chairman, Cross. Papers: "The Lake Attawapiskat Region, Ontario, and Its Birds", Hope; "The Mammals of the Lake Attawapiskat Region", Prince; "The Fishes of the Lake Attawapiskat Region", Mr. Beverley Scott.

315th Meeting - Dec. 5: Chairman, Hope. Business: Arrangements for the Christmas Bird Census. Papers: "Algonquin Park, Illustrated", MacLulich; "Bird Banding Records and Experiences", Southam; "An Episode of Last Spring" (being a philosophical conversation with a tom-cat), Logier.

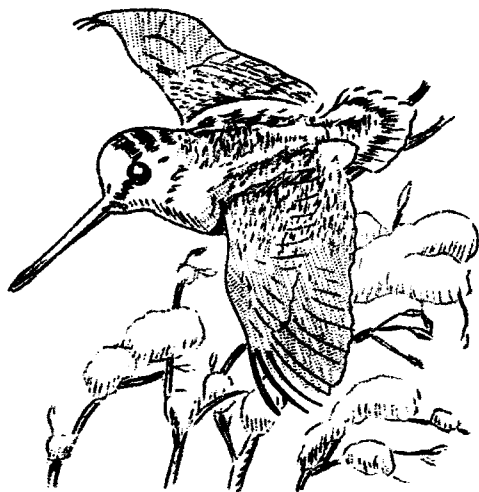
316th Meeting - Dec. 19: Chairman, Harrington. Papers: "The Region from Cochrane to Moosonee and its Birds", Shortt; "The Mammals of the Cochrane-Moosonee Area and Some Populations Statistics", Downing; Observations.

#### CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS

The 14th Christmas bird census was held on December 24. The following members took part, - Baillie, Bell, Bennett, Brown, Emery, Gunn, Harrington, Hope, MacLulich, Owens, Prince, Rutter, Satterly, Shortt, Snyder, Southam, and Thompson. In addition thirty-eight visitors contributed towards the census. The usual eight routes were traversed with some considerable filling-in, new areas being reconnoitered.

The weather for the day was not unpleasant, temperature ranging from approximately 6° at the start, to 28° during the warmer part of the day.

Fifty-five species of birds, totalling 11,906 individuals were observed. Two species had not been seen previously on a Christmas census, namely, the Hermit Thrush and the Woodcock. For a more complete account of the census, see the February issue of the Canadian Field-Naturalist, 1940, p.



## ANNUAL REPORT

### Late Winter Period

No unusually low temperatures were recorded in the Toronto region during this period. A low of  $-8.8^{\circ}$  was reached on January 26. Snowfall was above normal and heavy precipitation in this form continued into the early spring: 59.1" fell during January, February and March (the average for this period is 45.3").

The unusual number of Cardinals (See Proc. No. 3, p.8) persisted from the early winter period (1938). Reports showed occurrences from as far north as Haileybury (2), and numbers as large as fifteen were seen at one time in the garden of F. H. Emery, Toronto.

### Spring Period

Spring conditions were somewhat belated. April snow totalled 7.7" (average, 2.5") and the mean temperature for the month was  $40.6^{\circ}$ ,  $2.6^{\circ}$  below the average. However, no set-backs were due to unusually late killing frost. Growth of vegetation and bird migration apparently were somewhat retarded in the early spring. The delay was best noticed in the first dates for the appearance of amphibians and reptiles. Jefferson's and the Spotted Salamanders were first noted on April 15

and the Garter Snake on April 13. These dates are from ten days to two weeks late. During the third week of April, warming up accelerated and spring attained a normal advance.

### Summer Period

June and July were slightly dryer than usual but the whole summer average was brought up in August during which month 4.17" of rain fell. However, most of the August precipitation occurred on the 8th and 9th when 3.22" were recorded in the Toronto region. The temperature for the summer was  $2^{\circ}$  higher than average. August had an average of  $72.2^{\circ}$  which was  $3.9^{\circ}$  above the long time average for the area. The hottest summer day occurred on July 6 when  $93^{\circ}$  was registered. No marked biological or climatic events occurred in this region during this summer. Under the heading of activities, a number of important records of plants, birds and mammals were made, for the Toronto region, and the province at large. The more noteworthy of these will probably be recorded elsewhere by observers.

### Autumn Period

This period was peculiar in two respects: a temperature of  $92.1^{\circ}$  was recorded for Toronto on Sept. 16, a record high for this time of year and only a trace of snow fell throughout the autumn months. In October and November, Toronto (and Ottawa, etc.) experienced an unusual incursion of Barred Owls. In fact the season seemed to mark a period of numbers of other owls,-- Horned, Screech, Saw-whet, etc.

### Early Winter

The first snowfall occurred on December 15 which was the latest first fall on record. Although open conditions of the countryside prevailed until late in the year no marked effect on the number of migrant birds remaining was apparent. On the other hand the winter appeared to be developing into one characterized by the more erratic winter species. Crossbills, Grosbeaks,

Waxwings and a very large number of Lapland Longspurs were noted. Up to the end of the year, twenty-one individual Barred Owls were reported at Toronto, mostly within the city limits.

NOTES

Membership Changes

Elected: To Active Membership: Mr. W. W. H. Gunn,  
Dr. J. Satterly.

To Corresponding Membership:  
Mr. B. W. Cartwright,  
Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Transferred: To Active Membership: D. A. MacLulich.

To Corresponding Membership: J. Edmonds,  
F. P. Ide.

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The average attendance for the 17 meetings held during the calendar year, 1939, was 25.

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There are no vacancies in the Active Membership of the Club limited to 35. The role now consists of -- Baillie, Bell, Brodie, Brown, Campbell, Coventry, Cross, Devitt, Downing, Dymond, Emery, Fallis, Gunn, Harrington, Hope, Le Ray, Lindsay, Logier, Macklin, MacLulich, McIlwraith, McDougall, Oughton, Owens, Prince, Richards, Rippon, Rutter, Satterly, Shortt, Snyder, Southam, Taylor, Thompson and Urquhart.