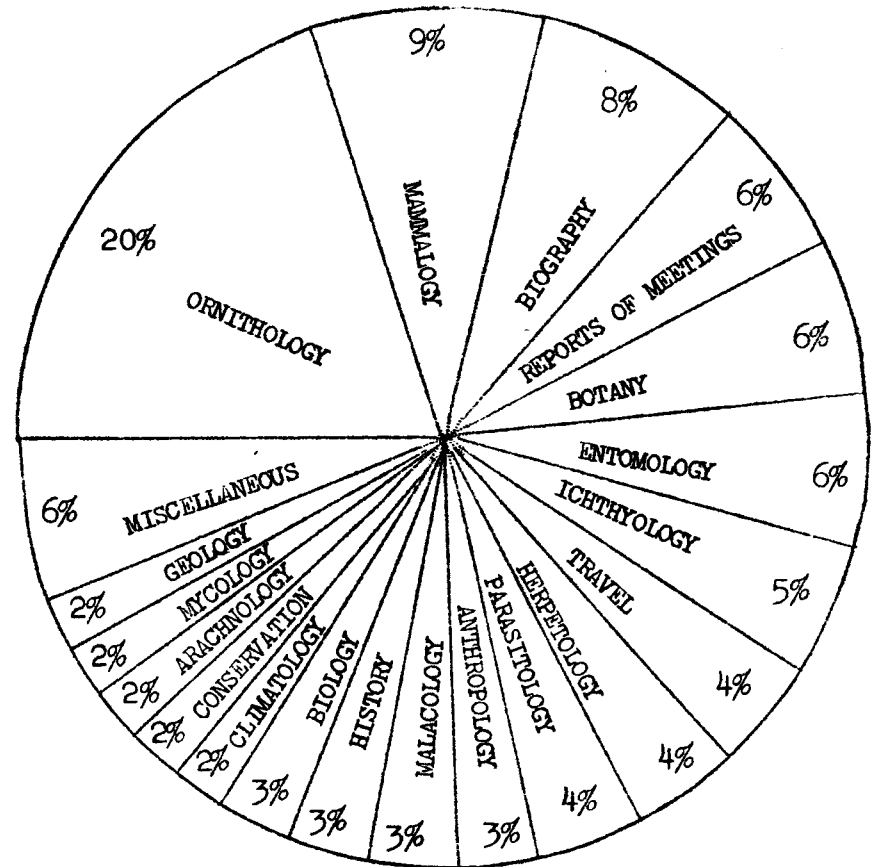


EDITORIAL

The following graph has been prepared to show the major interests represented in the membership of the Brodie Club. There are several ways to arrive at an approximation of a ratio of these interests. The one here used has seemed the least arbitrary. It is based on the papers read at meetings during the past five years (1936-1940 inclusive). The Club is indeed fortunate in having so many of the natural sciences represented and the proportionate representation is undoubtedly more nearly equal than would be found in the membership of most natural science clubs.



PROGRAMMES - 1940

317th Meeting - Jan. 9: Chairman, Emery. Paper: "Botanical Studies on the North Shore of Lake Superior", Taylor.

318th Meeting - Jan. 23: Chairman, Satterly. Papers: "Annual Reports, 1939" (part) - "Weather", McDougall; "Fungi", Bell; "Insects", Urquhart; "Fishes", Dymond (read by Snyder); "Amphibians and Reptiles", Logier (read by Snyder); "Birds", Baillie; "Mammals", Coventry. (See digest in Proc. 4, pp. 6-8).

319th Meeting - Feb. 6: Chairman, Fallis. Paper: "A Visit to Canada's Eastern Arctic", Oughton; Observations and Reviews.

320th Meeting - Feb. 20: Chairman: Gunn. Papers: "Annual Reports, 1939" (concluded) - "Botany", Owens; "Streams of the Past and Present", Coventry; "Brodie Club Xmas Census, 1939", Rutter (See Proc. 4); "Swimmer's Itch", Fallis. Observations and Reviews.

321st Meeting - Mar. 5: Chairman, McIlwraith. Paper: "Prospecting in Northern Rhodesia", Satterly.

322nd Meeting - Mar. 19: Chairman, Lindsay. Papers: "Notes on Manitoulin Island with Particular Reference to Spiders", Kurata; "Studies of Fish Migration", White; "Notes on the Cacti and other Phenomena of the Southwestern Desert", Shortt.

323rd Meeting - Apr. 2: Chairman, Snyder. Business: Arrangements for Annual Field Day. Papers: "Descent of Man", Dr. P. Nash. Observations and Reviews.

324th Meeting - Apr. 16: Chairman, Southam. Papers: "Forest Soils", Brodie; "Ridgway's Color Nomenclature", Emery; Observations and Reviews.

325th Meeting - Apr. 30: Chairman - Logier. Papers: "A Naturalist's Impressions of Florida", Harrington; "Food Habits of the Pileated Woodpecker", Devitt; "Ornithological Conchology", Oughton.

326th Meeting - May 14: Chairman, Downing. Correspondence: Letters from Corresponding Members, Rutter. Papers: "The Elephant in History with Notes on its Use in War", McDougall. Observations and Reviews.

FIELD DAY

The 16th Annual Field Day of the Club was held on May 19 at Nancy Lake in King Township, where splendid facilities for such an occasion were made available to us for the third time by our Corresponding Member, R. D. Ussher.

The outing was well attended, 21 members and 9 visitors taking part. Twenty of this number were present on the 18th. The weather on Saturday was fair; the temperature dropped to approximately 40°F. at night.

Rain fell on Sunday which somewhat hampered the activity of those present. The midday temperature reached approximately 58°F. Groups wandered in the woods around Nancy Lake, others attended to the pleasant chores about the cluster of small camp-fires at headquarters, and still others spun yarns in the nearby cabin. As is usual, and proper, no definite purpose was served but the time was well spent.

The total of bird species observed on the 19th was 94. A study of the list suggests a scarcity of thrushes and sparrows. The following mammals were recorded: Red Squirrel, Chipmunk, Porcupine, Groundhog, Mole Shrew, Cottontail and Little Brown Bat.

Most members were on the way home in the early evening when a severe electric storm struck, with wind and rain. No casualties were sustained.

SUMMER

327th Meeting - Sept. 24: Chairman, Baillie. Business: Nominations; Discussion of future programs. Observations and Reviews.

328th Meeting - Oct. 8: Chairman, Bell. Business: Elections (see p. 8). Papers: "Eastern Records of the Western Meadowlark", Baillie; "Status of the Ontario Leopard Frog", Logier; "Insect Musicians", and "Banding of Monarch Butterflies", Urquhart. Observations and Reviews.

329th Meeting - Oct. 22: Chairman, Campbell. Business: Collection for Red Cross. Papers: "Boston Meeting of the A.O.U., 1940", Devitt; "Mollusca of Newfoundland", Oughton. Observations and Reviews.

330th Meeting - Nov. 5: Chairman, Coventry. Papers: James Henry Fleming Memorial Programme. "James Henry Fleming, 1872-1940", Snyder; "The Fleming Library" McDougall; "The Fleming Journals", Baillie; "The Fleming Collection", Shortt; "James Henry Fleming and the Brodie Club", Rutter; "Recollections of J. H. Fleming's Boyhood and Youth", Deacon; "The Old Taxidermy Shop and Point Pelee Days". Taverner (read by Coventry).

331st Meeting - Nov. 19: Chairman, Devitt. Business: Discussion on the publication of the Fleming Memorial. Papers: "The R.O.M.Z. Fort Severn Faunal Survey, 1940", Hope (Introduction and Birds); Prince (Mammals, including Indians), Mr. B. Scott (Fishes).

332nd Meeting - Dec. 3: Chairman, Hope. Business: Editorial Committee Report re Fleming Memorial Papers. Papers: "A Parasite of the Clothes Moth", Fallis; "Biological and Socialization Relations of Homo sapiens and other Mammals and the Effect of Specialization on Survival", McIlwraith; "Recent History of the Pileated Woodpecker", Ussher.

333rd Meeting - Dec. 17: Chairman, Downing. Business: Report, Editorial Committee: Arrangements for Xmas Bird Census. Paper: "Geology of Kenora District", Satterly. Observations and Reviews.

The 16th Christmas bird census of the Club was held on Sunday, December 22. Forty-six observers took part, fifteen of which were members. Seven of the established routes were covered. The day was cloudy and mild, temperature ranging from 34° to 39° F. during the period of observation. About 4 inches of old snow was on the ground.

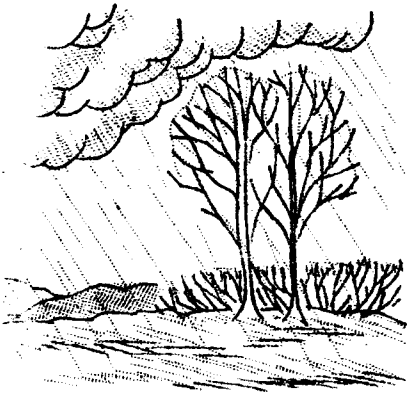
The total number of species observed was 53 and the total of individual birds tabulated was 8,515. Three species not previously found on an Xmas census were the Gadwall (1), Green-winged Teal (1), and Ruddy Duck (1). These bring the total of species observed on the sixteen censuses to 100.

For complete details of 1940 census see an early 1941 issue of the Canadian Field-Naturalist.

ANNUAL REPORTLate Winter Period

January was the coldest in two decades but February and early March were about normal in the matter of temperature and snowfall for the Toronto region. However, unusually low temperatures and snowfall occurred in the southern United States. These conditions played havoc with some birds wintering there and the repercussion will be noted below.

Winter birds persisted through this period (see Proc. 4, p. 7, 8) especially Pine Grosbeaks, Snow Buntings, Red Crossbills and White-winged Crossbills. Other boreal birds recorded during this period included Snowy Owl (2) and one each of the Evening Grosbeak, Bohemian Waxwing, Richardson's Owl, Ivory Gull and King Eider. Barred Owls continued to be observed in unusual numbers through this season.



Spring Period

The latter days of March to the end of May were somewhat below normal in temperature. During May an excess of rain (2.2 inches above normal) and an absence of sunshine (-72.7 hours) was notable. Reports on bird migration indicated a scarcity of Bluebirds, Robins, Phoebes, Grackles, Tree Swallows, etc.

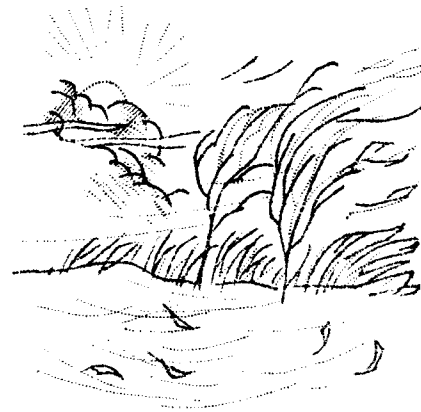
This is correlated with the unusual winter conditions mentioned above. Silver maple (A. saccharinum) came into bloom on April 15.

Summer Period

This period was inaugurated with a continuation of low temperatures, heavy rainfall and a shortage of sunshine (-65 hours in June). The cool, wet and cloudy conditions produced an unusually heavy fungi crop. Many species appeared weeks earlier than usual and several were collected in the Toronto region

for the first time. In the last Proceedings (No. 4), note was not made of a peak in the numbers of Cecropia, Luna and Polyphemus moths which occurred in the early summer of 1939. A prediction was made at the time, that the numbers of these moths would probably drop in 1940. This proved to be correct.

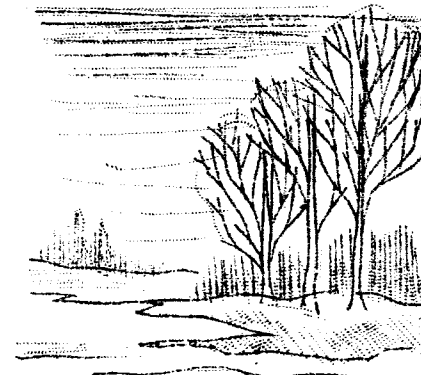
The increased local population of Cardinals (See Proc. 3, p.8 and Proc. 4, p.6) experienced a good breeding summer; 11 nests were reported. July and August (also September) experienced rainfall somewhat in excess of normal. Certain insects were unusually common during the late summer period into the early fall. These are noted under the autumn period.



Autumn Period

As a whole the autumn showed a somewhat above-normal precipitation. During September (and late summer) it was obvious that the Toronto region was experiencing a marked increase in the corn borer. Farmers, fruit dealers and householders alike were aware of the damage. Other insects which were unusually numerous in the early autumn were Buckeye Butterfly (Junio coenia), Monarch Butterfly, Cabbage Butterfly, Tussock Moth and Long-horned Grasshoppers.

One species of Duck, the Gadwall, appeared in the Toronto region in numbers which exceed any previous reports, at any season. Eleven were noted on one day (Nov. 24). Also, in late fall there was evidence that Meadow Mice (Microtus pennsylvanicus) were locally at, or near, a peak. Snowfall totalled 166 in. for November, falling mostly during two storms which came in quick succession. Street and road conditions in and about Toronto were the worst within the memory of many motorists.



Early Winter Period

Early winter was not marked by unusual weather or events. Sunshine for December was slightly below normal, which was merely a continuation of a condition prevailing throughout the whole year. The year (1940) produced an all-time low record of sunshine in this region, (-1850.8 hours).

The Christmas census in this issue of the Proceedings gives some details of bird observations at the close of the year, 1940. Short-eared Owls were observed again at the York Downs Golf Course, 14 seen on one day in December. Microtus numbers were obviously high in the area.

RESULTS OF ELECTIONS - SEPTEMBER 1940

Secretary-Treasurer: Rutter
Membership Committee: Snyder, Coventry, Thompson
Program Committee: Downing, Gunn, Satterly
Conservation Committee: Brodie, McIlwraith, Emery
Library Committee: McDougall, Bell, Brown
Editorial Committee: Rutter, Snyder, Shortt

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Transferred: To Active Membership: G. C. Toner
To Corresponding Membership: E. C. Cross
D. A. MacLulich
T. M. C. Taylor

Deceased: J. H. Fleming

NOTES

Military Service

E. C. Cross is now in service as a Flying Officer in the R.C.A.F.; L.S. Dear is Lt.-Col. in the Canadian (Reserve) Army; D. A. MacLulich is a Flying Officer in the R.C.A.F.; W. E. Van Steenburgh is Major in the 47th Field Battery, Canadian (Active) Army; and T. M. C. Taylor is enrolled in the University of Toronto C.O.T.C.

For the 17 meetings of the Club held during the calendar year, 1940, the average attendance was 24.6.

Correction

In Proceeding No. 4, p. 5, the Christmas census of birds is stated as the "14th". This should be corrected to the "15th".