

EDITORIAL

In the present emergency we may well take stock and consider the state of the Brodie Club. The activity and vigour of the Club may be roughly measured by the record of attendance. Meetings were attended by an average of 29 members in the club year 1935-6, by 25 in the period 1936-9, and by 24.6, to be exact, in 1940. A marked decline, to 21.5, occurred in 1941. This trend continued during the year 1942; the average was 19.3.

Absences consequent to advancing years are inevitable and deny us the society of esteemed members, yet new members nearly balance these losses. War is the principal cause of the falling off in attendance. Several Active Members have gone into military service—Cross, Prince and Urquhart to the Royal Canadian Air Force; Gunn and Taylor to the Canadian Army. (This enumeration does not include the names of Corresponding Members in service). Enlistments alone markedly affect attendance. But there are other duties imposed by war which should be mentioned and in so doing we reveal additional bases for our belief that the record of attendance is not discouraging.

Among our Active Members there are men who take time to drill Canadian Officers in Training, to enlist and work in the Veterans' Guard, to assume duties in Civilian Defence, to prepare themselves in First Aid. These major extraneous activities take time and disturb normal affairs. Add to these the countless strains and stresses of war-time which affect the individual, and it is obvious that our meetings are still well attended.

With the above it is not inappropriate to urge that efforts be made to maintain interest in the Club. There are good reasons why we should come out to meetings regularly. Consider the matter of continuity of observation and report. A gap in regular records of a dynamic nature cannot be closed at a later time. Also, we believe, it is important to sustain institutions which advance knowledge and cultivate the spirit of fraternity. In the words of Dr. Parr, Director of the American Museum of Natural History, "the effort of our physical victory may prove wasted if, in the meantime, we have lost on the spiritual front."

THE 351st MEETING—JANUARY 6th.

Chairman, Emery. Attendance, 16 + 2 visitors

BUSINESS: Seasonal reports committee abolished; annual reports program discontinued. Gunn's departure for Active Service announced.

PAPERS: **Annual Reports**, Owens (Pants); Urquhart (Insects); Logier, read by Urquhart (Amphibians and Reptiles); Downing (Mammals).

The 17th Christmas Bird Census, Rutter. Sixty species recorded, making a grand total of 105 observed since 1925. (See *Can. Field-Nat.* 56 : 27-28).

OBSERVATIONS: **Chickadee Abundance**, McIlwraith; **Mild Weather and Bird Scarcity**, Rutter; **Snow and Migration**, Fred Glenny; **Local Distribution of Tree Sparrows**, Hope; **Toronto Black Ducks**, Snyder and Shortt; **Snowy Owls, Niagara**, Hurlburt (correspondence).

THE 352nd MEETING—JANUARY 20th.

Chairman, Campbell. Attendance, 20 + 7 visitors.

BUSINESS: Report on current activities of Federation of Ontario Naturalists.

PAPER: **Rural India**, Prof. L. C. Coleman. Outline of the geography, physiography, climate, crops and people. Methods in improving agriculture described. (Illustrated by slides).

THE 353rd MEETING—FEBRUARY 3rd.

Chairman, Owens. Attendance, 14 + 2 visitors.

BUSINESS: Toronto meeting of the North American Wildlife Conference announced (April 8, 9, 10).

PAPER: **Tree Growth**, Prof. T. W. Dwight. Described and illustrated with slides, propagation from seedlings to old plantations. Ring-counts of miniature cores bored from living trees gave statistics for prediction as to growth on certain types of soil.

THE 354th MEETING—FEBRUARY 17th.

Chairman, Lindsay. Attendance, 18 + 1 visitor.

BUSINESS: Prince's departure for Active Service announced. A tablet listing names of members on Active Service authorized. **Annual Meeting of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists** announced (February 28).

PAPERS: **Reindeer Compared to Other Domestic Animals**, Hadwen, read by Fallis. Observations on the Anderson River herd in 1939. The number of yearling females having fawns and the dressed weight of reindeer increased on this new range.

Microtus Peak of 1941-42, Hope. Described peak and showed its effect on Short-eared Owl population at York Downs.

OBSERVATIONS: **Snow Depth in Woods**, Bell; **A Homing Record of the Atlantic Salmon**, White.

THE 355th MEETING—MARCH 3rd.

Chairman, Bell. Attendance, 19 + 3 visitors.

PAPER: **Some of the Less Known Facts About Mushrooms**, Prof. H. S. Jackson. Fairy-rings explained and illustrated by slides. Parasitic fungi, luminescence of mushrooms, the dissemination of spores and cell division in spore development discussed.

THE 356th MEETING—MARCH 17th.

Chairman, Harrington. Attendance, 26 + 3 visitors.

BUSINESS: Committee appointed to consider compilation on the life of Dr. Wm. Brodie.

PAPERS: **Commentary on Camels**, Campbell. A review of the history, habits and uses of the camel.

The Animal's World, Coventry. We interpret animal behaviour in comparison to humans. There are differences in response. Reactions of European Bush-tick, Honey Bees, gulls, dogs, cats and monkeys, to certain stimuli related.

The European Starling, Thompson. A review of the introduction and spread with some speculation on the possibilities of change in behaviour.

OBSERVATIONS: **Bird Notes from B. C.**, Munro.

THE 357th MEETING—MARCH 31st.

Chairman, Rutter. Attendance, 20 + 1 visitor.

BUSINESS: Proceedings No. 6 distributed.

PAPER: **First Introduction of European Plants and Animals in Canada**, Prof. R. M. Saunders. Traced the development of Agriculture along with settlement and gave notes when certain crops were first grown. Small ships, slow voyages and fur traders retarded the process.

OBSERVATIONS: **A Search for the Connecticut Warbler's Nest, Dear; Snowy Owl on P. E. I. and Hungarian Partridge, White; Imitations by the Starling, Snyder; Pileated Woodpecker, Brown; Canada Jay, Owens; Swamp Tree Frog and Nocturnal Gulls, Emery; Surf Scoter, McIlwraith; Hibernating Beetles, Lindsay; Geese and Storm Havoc at Rondeau, R. M. Saunders; Vesper Sparrow, Thompson.**

THE 358th MEETING—APRIL 14th

Chairman, Coventry Attendance, 22 + 2 visitors.

BUSINESS: Field Day committee appointed. Correspondence re lumbering at Rondeau.

PAPERS: **The Symposium on Criteria in Systematics**, Dymond. Viewpoints of specialists expressed at a New York meeting. Changing concept illustrated by the division of Linnean genera. Agreed that criteria used are morphological rather than genetic.

Certain Aspects of Ethnological Botany, McIlwraith. Discussed the origin of certain cultivated plants and their changed form. Uses of gourds mentioned in detail; also, fibre producing plants.

Osteological Regeneration in Birds, Rutter. Reviewed finding of Tiemeier's work on a large series of bird skeletons which showed 4.5% had recovered from bone injuries. Discussed difficulties of survival of a bird with bone injuries.

OBSERVATIONS: **Spring Flicker, Snyder; Spring Butterflies, Owens; Daytime Activity of Bats in the Maritimes, White; Grey Fox in Ontario, Downing; Muskrat Increases, Emery; Phenological Notes, Hope; Snow Storm and Birds, McIlwraith; Red Fox Numbers in the N. W., Dymond; Oil Pollution and Bird Mortality, Lindsay and Downing; Local Ruffed Grouse, Bell.**

THE 359th MEETING—APRIL 28th

Chairman, Hope. Attendance, 20 + 1 visitor.

BUSINESS: May 17th decided as Field Day. McIlwraith's election as President of the Royal Canadian Institute announced.

PAPERS: **Spore Dispersal by Fungi**, Bell. Several methods developed by fungi to disperse adhesive spores discussed. Space economy in gill arrangements also described.

The Life of Charles Waterton, Hurlburt. The education, exploration and writings of this English naturalist related. Waterton one of the first men to speak in defense of hawks and owls.

Cowbirds, Harrington. Graphs presented showed coincidence of nesting peaks of hosts and of cowbird oviposition. Frequency of parasitization of certain hosts and the effect on their populations discussed.

OBSERVATIONS: **Winter Bird Occurrences at London, Ontario, Deacon** (correspondence).

THE 360th MEETING—MAY 12th.

Chairman, McIlwraith. Attendance, 19 + 1 visitor.

BUSINESS: Decided that Field Day was to be at Hogg's Hollow.

PAPERS: **Bewick's Wren, MacArthur.** Ontario records and continental range extension reviewed. The significance of extralimital occurrences discussed.

Mineral Occurrences in Parry Sound District, Satterly. Account of the search for war minerals. Explained the factors of quantity, purity, availability and demand. Illustrated by specimens.

Bird Banding on the Pilgrim Islands, Southam. Review of work in 1937, 1938 and 1941, particularly with the Double-crested Cormorant. A total of 2,800 banded. Returns from as far south as Cuba.

OBSERVATIONS: **A New Plant for Toronto, Brown; A Heavy Warbler Wave, Baillie and Lindsay; Field Sparrow at Pottageville, Snyder; Olive-sided Flycatcher in King Township, McIlwraith; Blackflies, Bell; Food of Canada Jay, Devitt.**

18th FIELD DAY—MAY 17th.

Fourteen members and four visitors attended. Woods of Hogg's Hollow and the adjacent field explored. Lunch on Bathurst Street. A total of sixty bird species recorded among which were Leconte's Sparrow and the Upland Plover.

THE 361st MEETING—SEPTEMBER 22nd

Chairman, Baillie.

Attendance, 17.

BUSINESS Nominations. The following were elected by acclamation:—**Secretary, Devitt; Treasurer, Emery; Membership Committee, Snyder, Baillie, Coventry; Proceedings Committee, Snyder, Shortt, (Devitt, ex-officio); Library Committee, McDougall, Bell, Brown.** Urquhart's enlistment in meteorological service of the R.C.A.F. announced. Discussion of programs.

REPORT: An account of the Field Day (See above).

OBSERVATIONS: Fungi Flourish in '42, Bell; Philadelphia Vireo at Huntsville and A Grebe Eats its Feathers, Rutter; Mammal Numbers in Algonquin Park, Dymond; Botulism in Ontario Ducks? and A Ruffed Grouse Post-mortem, Fallis; Black-backed Gull, McDougall; Cardinal in Manitoba, Shortt; Banding Ring-billed Gulls, Southam; Phenological Notes and Wood Turtle Record, Baillie; Crow Catches Chipmunk and Chipmunk Battles Rat, Lindsay; Chipmunk Litters and Phenological Data, Emery; Centipedes Abundant and Turkey Vulture at Milton and Peromyscus in Bird Box, Coventry; Turkey Vulture at Uphill and Blue-tailed Skink at Head Lake and Black Squirrel Litters, Snyder.

THE 362nd MEETING—OCTOBER 6th

Chairman, Thompson.

Attendance 16.

BUSINESS: Elections: **Program Committee, Baillie, MacArthur, Southam; Conservation Committee, Dymond, Coventry, McIlwraith.** Oughton transferred to Corresponding Membership. Committee appointed to obtain information about Dr. T. J. Cottle.

PAPERS: **Records of the Little Gull in America, Baillie.** Reviewed occurrences, discussed routes, and postulated a Siberian or N. W. American breeding station.

Rare Ontario Plants, Brown. A report on plants new to, or rare in, the Toronto region, illustrated by specimens.

OBSERVATIONS: 'Compendium and Description of the West Indies.' McIlwraith; **Two Fungi New to Toronto, etc., Bell; Blue Jay Imitates Tanager, Rutter; Nestling Swifts at Hillier, Lunn; Nesting of Starling, Campbell; The Age of a Black Duck and Predation Efficiency, Southam; Food of Black Squirrels and Robins, Lindsay; Cat Robs Bird Box, Toner.**

THE 363rd MEETING—OCTOBER 20th.

Chairman, MacArthur.

Attendance, 22 + 2 visitors.

BUSINESS: Progress report on Dr. Cottle.

PAPERS: **The Northwest Crow, Shortt.** Reviewed opinions and described personal field observations on this form and expressed his view that it was specifically distinct.

Period of Maximum Activity of Small Mammals, Downing. Preliminary study showed two peaks, one at dusk and one at 2 a.m.

OBSERVATIONS: **Mink Tracks, Thompson; Autumn Bird Records, Lindsay; Two Toronto Fungi, Bell; Mouse Caught by Burdock, Lunn; Are Road Casualties Seasonal?, Satterly; Bird Records from Parry Sound District, Harrington; Ruffed Grouse Disease, Fallis; Canada Jay at Rice Lake, Shortt; Jumping of the Jumping Mouse, Rutter; More Imitations by the Starling, Snyder; Wild Silver Maple, Owens.**

THE 364th MEETING—NOVEMBER 3rd.

Chairman, Shortt.

Attendance, 21 + 5 visitors.

BUSINESS: Progress report re Dr. Cottle.

PAPER: **Social Customs Affecting the Hormone System, Dr. R. F. Fortune.** A relation of the marital taboos and practices of New Guinea natives and an explanation of their physiological and social effects.

OBSERVATIONS: **Local Names of Saskatchewan Mammals, Coventry; Brush Wolves in King Township, Baillie; Deer at Weston, Brown; Autumn Bird Records, Devitt.**

THE 365th MEETING—NOVEMBER 17th

Chairman, Bell.

Attendance, 22 + 4 visitors.

BUSINESS: Estimates on printing Proceedings.

PAPERS: **Parasitism in Maskinonge, Fallis.** Described and illustrated with slides a parasite which encysts in the mouth, gills and muscles of this fish.

Hawks, Devitt. Remarks on conservation and the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary. The Broad-winged Hawks' nesting habits described and illustrated by lantern slides.

OBSERVATIONS: **Animal Numbers in the Fort William Region, Allin (correspondence); Chipping Sparrow, Thompson; Autumn Bird Records, Baillie, Lindsay; Swamp Tree Frog, Coventry; Squirrels as Fur, Downing; Tree Sparrows, Hope; November Dandelions, Owens; Screech Owl, McDougall; Nesting Habits of Peromyscus, open discussion.**

THE 366th MEETING—DECEMBER 1st.

Chairman, Downing. Attendance, 19 + 2 visitors.

BUSINESS: Election of K. A. Nielsen and A. A. Outram to Active Membership and O. D. Boggs (Cobourg) to Corresponding Membership. McIlwraith transferred to Corresponding Membership. Committee to arrange Christmas Bird Census (on December 27th) appointed.

PAPERS: **The Ginkgo Tree**, Owens. Review of its history, characteristics, and an account of local specimens with remarks on its culture.

Toronto Bird Stores of By-gone Days, Hurlburt (read by Baillie). A chronological account giving locations, a description of stock and an impression of changing times.

OBSERVATIONS: **Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker**, Bell and Baillie; **Eider Ducks**, Harrington; **Hawk Owl**, Southam; **Snowy Owl**, Lunn and Owens; **Swamp Tree Frog's Range**, Toner.

THE 367th MEETING—DECEMBER 15th

Chairman, Emery. Attendance, 17 + 2 visitors.

BUSINESS: Printing of Proceedings approved.

PAPERS: **Laboratory and Wild Races**, MacArthur. Selective breeding produced a large and a small race of mice (live specimens exhibited). Slides illustrated large and small wild races of birds and mammals. Both laboratory and wild races show large races have relatively small appendages and small races relatively large appendages.

Red Sore in the Pike, Toner. Condition due to bacteria causing "red leg" in frogs and thought to be transmitted by water.

OBSERVATIONS: **Winter Bird Records**, Lindsay and Baillie; **Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker**, MacArthur; **Red Fox Abundant**, Baillie and Outram; **Snow Buntings**, Hope; **Sparrows Dust in Ashes**, Owens; **Prince Edward County Records**, Lunn (correspondence).

18th CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS—DECEMBER 27th.

A total of 66 observers including 16 members of the Club was organized into 29 parties to cover the usual 8 routes. A total of 61 species of birds and a total of 13,302 individuals were recorded. A report to the Club by the Christmas Census Committee (Baillie) was arranged for the next regular meeting. A detailed report of the census for publication in the Canadian Field-Naturalist to be prepared (Rutter).