

## W. E. SAUNDERS ON CONSERVATION

There are a great many things in nature that we do not understand. Man interferes with nature's conditions in settled regions and the result is seldom, if ever, a benefit to the forms of life he is endeavouring to protect. Personally, I am strongly in favour of leaving nature alone, except in cases where man has altered conditions so as to produce an extraordinary number of a species.

We often fail to appreciate the cheap things, and estimate the desirability by cost, rather than by intrinsic qualities that make the thing really desirable. It is much easier for us to decide as to the injuriousness or otherwise of a form of wild life than it is to prove our decision correct, as our information, at best, is only partial, and we are never able to see all sides of the matter at once. The whole of creation is interdependent. One form of life multiplies largely for the sake of becoming food for other forms of life. The more one studies the matter the more he becomes convinced that nature is quite capable of taking care of her own, and if man had limited his destructiveness to defending his own property and taking no more than the annual increase for his purposes of food, clothing, etc., we should today have an abundance of wild life.

The statement that man was given 'dominion' over all the earth has been interpreted that he is at liberty to kill off all that he deems to be adverse to his interests. The term used by these destroyers is 'control' but what they mean is 'exterminate'. Whenever nature is faced with too many of any one species, checks are brought into play and the superabundance is removed.

Some people want the living things of nature only for the sake of killing them. It is getting to be a pretty generally acknowledged fact that the desire to kill is potent in man and that he is surely the rightful possessor of the term 'the greatest destroyer in the universe'. Almost without exception nature students are opposed to killing off our wild life and the more this matter is investigated the more opposed are those people because it appears that the results are almost always harmful. Human beings, having heard of damage by some wild creature, seem prone to believe everything they have heard to the detriment of the creature that can say nothing in its own behalf and to disbelieve everything on the other side.

—Extracted from 'Nature Week by Week', in the  
London *Free Press* and London *Advertiser*.

THE 402nd MEETING—JANUARY 9th, 1945.

Chairman, Campbell. Attendance, 21 + 1 visitor.

**BUSINESS:** Motion passed to draft a suitable resolution to commemorate the death of Eric G. McDougall and members stood to observe one minute of silence. Motion passed authorizing Secretary to act without awaiting instructions from Club in cases of emergency such as the death of a member.

**PAPERS:** *Modern Weather Forecasting*, Urquhart. A review of the latest developments in forecasting as used by meteorologists in the R.C.A.F.

*The 20th Christmas Bird Census*, Rutter. Census taken on December 24th. Record number of birds seen at Toronto (67 species) in spite of unusual amount of snow.

THE 403rd MEETING—JANUARY 23rd.

Chairman, Lindsay. Attendance, 29 + 5 visitors.

**BUSINESS:** Welcome to Corresponding Members White and Boggs. Resolution adopted: "BE IT RESOLVED: That the Brodie Club wishes to express and record its sorrow and loss in the passing of Eric Graham McDougall. We will miss his regular contributions to our programmes, his sagacious interpolations in discussion, and his delightful bits of humour. Eric McDougall was soundly trained in science and he was a prolific reader, who loved knowledge for its own sake. He was generous almost to a fault and he was a thoroughly conscientious member of the Brodie Club. In recording our sorrow and loss we wish to extend our sympathy to his widow and to his kinfolk."

**PAPER:** *The Alaska Highway*, Clarke. A verbal and pictorial journey over this new highway, based on two expeditions of the speaker in 1943 and 1944.

THE 404th MEETING—FEBRUARY 6th.

Chairman, Ussher. Attendance, 23 + 4 visitors.

**PAPERS:** *The Spruce Budworm*, Brodie. A history of this destructive insect in Ontario and the possibilities of its control, particularly with DDT.

*Experimental Work with DDT in Algonquin Park*, Dr. R. R. Langford. Details of work carried on during the past summer to determine the effects of DDT on wild life in general.

**OBSERVATIONS:** *Natural Bone Repair in Wild Animals*, Downing; *Little Brown Bat in Winter*, Ross Baker; *Deer in Southern Ontario*, Outram; *Birds of Prey in High Park*, Lindsay; *Hawk Owl at Frenchman's Bay*, Devitt.

THE 405th MEETING—FEBRUARY 20th.

Chairman, Downing. Attendance, 23 + 1 visitor.

**BUSINESS:** Sternberg transferred from Corresponding to Active Membership—his name was inadvertently omitted from the list of Corresponding Members printed on the inside back cover of the last Proceedings; letter from MacLulich, now in England; greetings from Rippon, confined to his home by illness.

**PAPERS:** *Trees of the Toronto Region*, Owens. 215 species found in Toronto region. Fine series of specimens shown.

*The Bay of Fundy, White*. An illustrated talk on the many curious features of this remarkable body of water and its value as a fishing area.

THE 406th MEETING—MARCH 6th.

Chairman, Clarke. Attendance, 26 + 3 visitors.

**BUSINESS:** Resignations received and accepted from Corresponding Members Bennett and Stovell—already deleted from list of Corresponding Members printed in the last Proceedings; correspondence from Beamer, Emery, Federation of Ontario Naturalists, and Canadian Red Cross.

**PAPER:** *Field Work at Great Slave Lake, 1944*, Oughton. An outline of the history of Limnology and a detailed account of the work of the Fisheries Research Board of Canada at Great Slave Lake.

**OBSERVATIONS:** *Crocuses on March 1st*, Owens; *Bohemian Waxwings at Scarborough*, Baillie; *Raccoon in Leaside*, Thompson; *Snowy Owl at Frenchman's Bay*, D. S. Miller; *Killdeer on March 5th*, Lunn; *Slaughter of Crows by Ducks Unlimited*, Fallis.

THE 407th MEETING—MARCH 20th.

Chairman, MacArthur. Attendance, 19 + 2 visitors.

**BUSINESS:** Approval of permission to Federation of Ontario Naturalists to use Brodie Club papers in a memorial volume on Dr. W. E. Saunders; annual meeting of Federation announced.

**PAPERS:** *A Preliminary Survey of the Spiders of Port Credit*, Harrod. Report of results of work on a selected area. 150 species were found, many new for Ontario.

*Post-war Museum Technique*, Sternberg. Possibilities of improved methods in museum work, particularly with liquid latex. Demonstrations of the use of this material.

**OBSERVATIONS:** *Birds Arriving Early*, Baillie; *First Swamp Tree Frog*, Lindsay; *Notes from Algonquin Park*, Clarke; *Remarkable Winter Survival of Plants*, Hope; *Mating Display of Hairy Woodpeckers*, Shortt; *Earliest Record of Blooming for Silver Maple*, Owens; *Unusually Early Butterflies and Birds*, Devitt.

THE 408th MEETING—APRIL 3rd.

Chairman, Snyder. Attendance, 18 + 2 visitors.

PAPERS: *Modern Veterinary Practice*, Leeson. An informative discussion of the most up-to-date methods of dealing with disease and injury in domestic animals, especially household pets.

*Lice Through the Ages*, Outram. A thorough treatment of the various forms and life histories of a parasite that has been intimately associated with man since the earliest records of history.

OBSERVATIONS: *Norway Maple in Bloom on April 2nd*, Rutter; *Smelts Running on March 16th and Early Bird Records*, Devitt; *Another New Spider from Port Credit*, Harrod; *Horned Owl's Nest Beside Sawmill and Scarcity of Ground-hogs*, Ussher; *Pine Warbler in March*, Baillie; *An Early Frungus*, Bell.

THE 409th MEETING—APRIL 17th.

Chairman, Satterly. Attendance, 19 + 6 visitors.

BUSINESS: Distribution of Proceedings No. 9; communications from Milne, Federation of Ontario Naturalists and Emergency Conservation Committee.

PAPERS: *Photographic Souvenirs*, W. H. Carrick. Many beautiful slides and several reels of motion pictures of nature subjects between Newfoundland and Manitoba, taken while the speaker was a member of the R.C.A.F.

*Nature Education*, Dymond. A thoughtful discussion of the problem of imparting knowledge and appreciation of nature through formal channels of education, and suggestions for improvement.

THE 410th MEETING—MAY 1st.

Chairman, Outram. Attendance, 18.

BUSINESS: Devitt appointed to arrange annual field day; letters from Mrs. McDougall, and Watson.

OBSERVATIONS: *Publications on Caddis Flies and Burying Beetles*, by Milne, Rutter; *Clematis verticillaris at Milton and Schizaea pusilla in Bruce Peninsula*, Brown; *Old Publications on Passenger Pigeon*, Hurlburt; *A Bag of Monkeys*, Downing; *Abundance of Chipmunks in Peel County*, Hope; *Notes on Nesting of Ruffed Grouse*, Clarke; *Red-backed Sandpiper and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in April*, Lindsay; *Cottontails Eating Sumach*, Snyder; *Many Early Records Before April 15th*, Baillie; *An Obliging Phoebe and Notes from Allin at Fort William*, Devitt; *Robin's Nest Remodelled by Sparrows*, Harrington; *Growing Fungi at Home*, Bell; *Notes on Captive Flying Squirrel*, Outram.

THE 411th MEETING—MAY 15th.

Chairman, Cross. Attendance, 17.

BUSINESS: Arrangements for field day at Nancy Lake completed; letter from Milne.

OBSERVATIONS: *Strange Manifestations of Sex Instinct*, Bell; *A Trip to Point Pelee and Rondeau*, Devitt; *A New Geological Map of Canada*, Satterly; *Blue-tailed Skink and Fox Snake*, Baillie; *Cardinal Nest and Short-eared Owl Nest at Toronto*, Lindsay; *Migration in the Rain*, and *Domestication of Animals*, McIlwraith; *Large Clutches of Ruffed Grouse Eggs*, Hope; *Turkey Vulture at Milton*, Brown.

21st FIELD DAY—NANCY LAKE—MAY 20th.

First field day to be held away from Toronto since 1941. Eighteen men attended this one in King Township. The weather was favorable, 100 species of birds were identified and everyone enjoyed the outing.

THE 412th MEETING—SEPTEMBER 25th.

Chairman, Baillie. Attendance, 15

BUSINESS: Chairman's remarks on beginning Club's 25th year; report of filing committee; Secretary to communicate with Edmonds, confined to hospital; announcement that Taylor now Professor of Botany at University of B.C.; Elections—by acclamation—Membership Committee, Snyder, Devitt, Coventry; Conservation Committee, Dymond, Coventry, McIlwraith; Secretary, Rutter; Treasurer's Report; Vote of thanks to Treasurer.

OBSERVATIONS: *A Poor Year for Fungi*, Bell; *Upland Plover Observations*, Lunn; *Dangers of Mis-identification*, Harrington; *Nighthawks Moving Young*, Baillie; *Inland Shore-birds*, Thompson; *Additions to Matheson Birds*, Satterly; *Destruction of Duck Eggs in High Park*, and *Rat Overcomes Chipmunk*, Lindsay; *Jumping Mouse Carrying Young*, Shortt; *House-broken Skunk*, Outram; *Copulation of Porcupines*, Downing; *Benefits of Fall Floods on Trout Streams*, Snyder.

THE 413th MEETING—OCTOBER 9th.

Chairman, Brodie. Attendance, 21 + 2 visitors.

BUSINESS: Elections: Programme Committee, Satterly, Harrod, Emery; Proceedings Committee, Baillie, Outram, Secretary; Library Committee, Bell, Brodie, Downing; Treasurer, Lindsay; Motion passed to collect special levy of 50c. from each member to meet expenses of current year; committee appointed to study arrangements for special Anniversary Meeting; greetings to Club from Edmonds.

PAPERS: *Termites*, Urquhart. Discussion on termites in general, review of the Toronto situation, and best methods of control. *The 21st Annual Field Day*, Rutter.

THE 414th MEETING—OCTOBER 23rd.

Chairman, Devitt. Attendance, 24 + 3 visitors.

**BUSINESS:** Messages from Nielsen, Coventry, Dymond and McIlwraith expressing regret at their inability to regularly attend meetings due to press of post-war duties.

**PAPERS:** *Geological History of the Bruce Peninsula*, Satterly. Description of the geological events leading up to the present formations. Present shore-line about 3,000 years old.

*A Visit to Lake Athabaska*, Shortt. Report of 1945 expedition, commercial fishing operations, interesting bird-life, and topography.

**OBSERVATIONS:** *A Puzzling Fungus Identified*, Bell; *Large Litters in the Arctic Fox*, Snyder; *A Good Year for Skunks*, Cross; *A Late Hummingbird*, Hope; *Cooper's Hawk Takes Prey on the Wing*, Harrington; *A Huge Red Oak*, Owens; *Evening Grosbeaks and Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker at Toronto*, Devitt.

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THE 415th MEETING—NOVEMBER 6th.

Chairman, Emery. Attendance, 21 + 1 visitor.

**BUSINESS:** Toner transferred to Corresponding Membership; letter from Macklin reporting continued ill-health and announcement that he would be transferred to Corresponding Membership.

**PAPER:** *Sexing of Chickens*, MacArthur. A discussion of the latest technique in determining sex in young chicks. A high accuracy has been achieved by a study of colour patterns in newly-hatched birds.

**OBSERVATIONS:** *Cackling of Jungle-fowl as a Contact Call*, Clarke; *A Late Vesper Sparrow*, Hope; *Rat Fishes for Snails*, Lindsay; *New Nesting Records of Evening Grosbeak*, and *Northern Bird Visitors*, Baillie; *Fox Squirrel in Ontario*, Harrington; *Pheasant Population Down*, Campbell; *Parula Warbler on November 6th*, R. Baker; *Fall Dandelion at Toronto*, Owens; *Hard-ware in House Wren's Nest*, Emery.

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THE 416th MEETING—NOVEMBER 20th.

Chairman, Hope. Attendance, 21 + 1 visitor.

**BUSINESS:** Report from Anniversary Committee; Harrod transferred to Corresponding Membership.

**PAPERS:** *Ruffed Grouse Investigations*, Fallis. Nesting studies carried on during the past two years and laboratory work on blood parasites in captive birds.

*The Bushmen of South Africa*, McIlwraith. Description of a disappearing people and particularly of their highly-developed art, much of which has been preserved, fortunately, by reproduction. Many pictures shown.

THE 417th MEETING—DECEMBER 4th.

Chairman, Leeson. Attendance, 21 + 4 visitors.

**PAPERS:** *The Orange Garden Spider*, Harrod. A detailed life history, with slides, of one of our most common spiders.

*The Early Ontario Naturalists*, Baillie. Brief sketches of the lives and work of eleven naturalists, dating from 1750, with special reference to Charles Fothergill and William Pope.

**OBSERVATIONS:** *Sweet Chestnut Blight*, Owens; *Dutch Elm Disease*, Taylor; *Eight Mice and One Shrew from One Hawk Stomach*, Hope; *Slaughter of Snowy Owls*, and *Canada Jays Near Toronto*, Devitt; *Hawk Owl at Ottawa*, Snyder; *Canada Geese at Toronto on November 25th*, Baillie.

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THE 418th MEETING—DECEMBER 18th.

Chairman, Owens. Attendance 16.

**BUSINESS:** Arrangements for Christmas Bird Census; letter from Macklin; serious illness of Rippon reported.

**PAPERS:** *Penicillin*, Devitt. Discovery, development and use of this remarkable drug, with many pictures and samples.

*Birds Out of Place and Why*, Thompson. Examples of birds in unnatural surroundings out of season, or both, and speculation as to how and why such phenomena occur, followed by an interesting general discussion on the subject.

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21st CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS—DECEMBER 23rd.

Sixty-one observers, divided into groups covering eight areas, in the Toronto region, recorded fifty-eight species of birds. Temperature from - 4° to 10° made this the coldest census on record. For the first time, no new birds for the occasion were seen, and the grand total for the 21 censuses remains at 114 species.

## MEMBERSHIP CHANGES.

The Club Membership remains at 83.

Our four Honorary Members remain the same.

The Active Membership is now 33, two being added and four being dropped since the last Proceedings. Those added were Sternberg and Toner (both from the Corresponding Membership) and those dropped were Harrod, Macklin and Taylor (all transferred to Corresponding Membership), and McDougall (by death).

The Active Members are now as follows:—

J. L. Baillie	E. B. S. Logier
G. S. Bell	Dr. J. W. MacArthur
J. A. Brodie	Prof. T. F. McIlwraith
H. H. Brown	K. Nielsen
Dr. J. A. Campbell	A. A. Outram
Dr. C. H. D. Clarke	L. T. Owens
Prof. A. F. Coventry	C. D. Richards
E. C. Cross	R. J. Rutter
O. E. Devitt	Dr. J. Satterly
S. C. Downing	T. M. Shortt
Prof. J. R. Dymond	L. L. Snyder
F. H. Emery	H. H. Southam
Dr. A. M. Fallis	L. Sternberg
Dr. P. Harrington	S. L. Thompson
C. E. Hope	G. C. Toner
Dr. J. Leeson	Dr. F. A. Urquhart
R. V. Lindsay	

The Corresponding Membership now totals 46, a gain of one over 1944. Transferred to Active Membership were Sternberg, and Toner, and added to the Corresponding Membership (transfers from Active) were Harrod, Macklin and Taylor.

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## AVERAGE ATTENDANCE.

The average attendance at the 17 meetings held during 1945 was 23 (21 members)—one better than last year.