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THE BRODIE CLUB

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, December 15, 1987

PLACE OF NEXT MEETING: Faunal Lab, South Borden Building

SPEAKER: Dr. Joanna Morgan-Jones, Botany Department,
University of Toronto

SUBJECT: Penicillin: The First of the Miracle Drugs

MINUTES OF THE 835th MEETING OF THE BRODIE CLUB

Held, November 17, 1987, at the Faunal Lab, University of
Toronto.

Chairman: D. Young Secretary: P. Aird

Guests: Margaret Bodsworth, guest of Bodsworth; Ann Falls,
guest of Falls; Mike Cadman and Elspeth Cadman, guests of
the Club.

Regrets: Sherry sent regrets.

Reading of the Minutes: Read by Dr. Savage, and approved by
the membership.

Club Business: Dr. Savage proposed Ann Falls for
membership. Her membership was unanimously accepted.

Announcements:

Norm Martin discussed the last meeting of the Federation of
Ontario Naturalists. A meeting will be held at Kingsview
Farm in King Township on The Stewardship of the Earth.
Birding tours have been organized to Trinidad and Tobago,
and a trip to the Amazon. The Atlas of the Breeding Birds
of Ontario has been completed, which was a joint project of
the F.O.N. and the Long Point Bird Observatory. The F.O.N.
would like suggestions of names to receive awards at the
annual meeting: Conservation Award, Distinguished Service
Award and Education Award.

Aird mentioned the forthcoming meeting of the Canadian
Institute of Forestry on the Canadian Forest Sector
Strategy, and a meeting of the Ontario Forest History
Colloquium.

Speaker of the Evening:

Michael Cadman was introduced by Falls as the coordinator of the Atlas of Breeding Birds of Ontario. He was coordinator of the project for the full life of the Atlas.

Mike described the contributions of many birders, authors, and artists who helped with the project. He circulated his copy of the atlas for signatures from all those who had cooperated on this effort.

George Francis at the University of Waterloo had originated the idea of an Ontario Atlas, based on the British system of 10 x 10km squares. The British finished their atlas in 1974 and are doing their second one now. France, West Germany, Turkey, in fact, an atlas of all of Europe is underway. Australia and New Zealand are also underway. There are now over forty states and provinces involved: Vermont has published; New York next year; Maine has maps; Quebec is in the fifth year; P.E.I., N.S. and N.B. in their second, Alta. in the first.

Other atlases include an Atlas of Rare Vascular Plants in Ontario, and several other provinces.

Robert Bateman painted the cover, which was sold for \$7,500 in auction in Hamilton. His contribution has helped defray the cost.

The book includes eleven pages on the biogeography of Ontario, which includes information on climate and topography, physiographic regions, forest regions, Ontario's shorelines and land use.

The Robin and the Northern Flicker, Loon, and Song Sparrow were very common.

More than 1500 people submitted data, spending an average of 92 hours per Atlaser. Nearly 300 species of nesting birds were reported: 292 + 2 hybrids + 6 that used to be reported but are not now, such as Bewick's Wren and Brant. About half the records included data on abundance.

The Atlas included English, French and Latin names, descriptions of the breeding birds by 90 authors, and a dozen artists provided detailed sketches. Falls and Aird were among the authors.

Tree Swallows were very common. The pattern of breeding Cliff Swallows was interesting: they were absent in Algonquin Park, presumably due to the lack of man-made structures, and they were absent on the Niagara Peninsula and extreme south-western Ontario, presumably because of the wide-spread use of pesticides. Black Terns and Marsh Wrens

were confined to the predominantly limestone areas. Wilson's Phalarope's were restricted to sewage lagoons in Southern Ontario and a few Northern areas that are prairie-like. The Eastern Screech Owl, once thought uncommon, was found to be very common in Southwestern Ontario. The Common Loon was found widely distributed throughout Ontario, from the Pre-Cambrian Shield North. The Horned Lark did not breed in Ontario before the white man, but is now very common in Southern Ontario. Several species had "breeding bands" across Ontario. For example, the Yellow-throated Vireo was abundant along the southern part of the Shield, and again from Niagara west.

Figure 12 in the Atlas shows the number of species recorded in each block in Ontario. Rondeau Park in Ontario was the richest, but south-western Ontario was the poorest.

Mike Cadman, James Tasker, George Fairfield and Earl Fairbanks canoed from Big Trout Lake down the Fawn River and the Severn River to Fort Severn on Hudson Bay. The fishing was excellent and they could catch pike, pickerel and trout, at will, by fishing in that order up from the forks of rivers. They sound-censused along the streams, and took six-hour triangulated walks through the muskeg. They found no confirmed nests of Sandhill Cranes, but heard them and saw footprints. They found Savannah Sparrows, Green-winged Teal, Arctic Terns and Whimbrels. They found the only known pair of Harris Sparrows, in Fort Severn.

What happens next? In 1995 there may be a census of all North American birds.

Questions and Comments:

All the data are on computer, and copies have been provided to the Canadian Wildlife Service and to the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. A micro-computer can handle half the data.

They did not try to accumulate information on successive counts. If a nesting Robin was found in year one, it didn't need to be checked again. However, an Appendix section presents dramatic changes in the distribution of the House Finch.

The Bay-breasted Warbler is known to upsurge during spruce and jack pine budworm epidemics.

Are we well or poorly stocked? The map of species diversity is appalling for southern Ontario.

The intensity of the sample is less than France, because it is less accessible. They think they got 92% of the breeding bird records and distribution in Ontario.

An Ontario herpeto-faunal survey is being organized by Mike Odum and Don Sutherland.

The Atlas cost upwards of \$500,000. They printed 3,335 copies, with 2,000 copies sold or on shelves, @ \$53.50 ea.

Dr. Jim Bendall thanked the speaker. He described the Atlas as "a magnificent accomplishment. It has great value, and will be even greater in the future. Mike Casadman's competence and eloquence are much admired." Hearty applause followed.

Notes and Comments

Aird noted that the pigeons did not fly again, after the gunshots on Remembrance day, perhaps because they were poisoned. A snowy owl was observed the Sunday before, in St. Clet, southwestern Quebec.

Speakman reported seeing a Great Horned Owl that made an extraordinary noise. He thought it was a rabbit screaming, but checked Bent -- it can be the hunger call of a young bird.

Bodsworth gave a rendition of a Barred Owl screech, which others had heard.

Riley commented on the abundance of Snowy Owls.

Boissoneau noted seeing the Pileated Woodpecker near Speakman's place, Brants on a sewage lagoon. Snow Buntings and a Horned Grebe.

Falls discussed a bird census procedure organized by the Canadian Wildlife Service, and reported on a dearth of birds near Apsley.

Young reported on seeing Evening Grosbeaks on November 14.

Meeting adjourned at 10:05.