

The meeting was held at the Faunal Lab and was attended by 9 members and 4 guests. Guests were Naudie Reynolds, Ken and Harriet Armson, and Mark Achells. The meeting was chaired by Norma Martin, and Ann Falls acted as secretary. The minutes of the previous meeting were read by Young and adopted after minor changes.

During discussion of the minutes of the previous meeting, which had been about Pacific Salmon, Keith Reynolds commented on the introduction of salmon into the Great Lakes in the mid 1950's. Chris Armstrong of the Department of Lands and Forests obtained eggs of pink salmon for an attempt to introduce into Hudson Bay at the mouth of the Winisk River. This attempt failed but the eggs had been held temporarily in Port Arthur, and a few overlooked eggs hatched and were dumped into Lake Superior. These fish survived and later returned to the release site. Their unexpected success in fresh water led to widespread introductions of salmon into the Great Lakes and a major sport fishery.

Announcements:

Norman Martin, the FON rep, presented information about

- 1) a new book, "Legacy: The Natural History of Ontario" edited by John Theberge, and sponsored by the Federation of Ontario Naturalists and the Ontario Heritage Foundation
- 2) a report by the Ontario Field Ornithologists for a folio of reproductions of Audubon prints
- 3) a Federal Ministry of the Environment publication "Environment Update"
- 4) a conference on "Diversity and Technology", a meeting to be held at the University of Guelph, October 25-28, 1995.

Ann Falls mentioned a safari being held by the Long Point Bird Club (story for a Robert Bateman print of a wild turkey).

Savage read parts of a letter written to the club in June by Ken Bessling about the hazards of prospecting in Honduras in an area beset by armed bandits. A subsequent letter was received from Vancouver in August.

Elections:

The following slate was nominated, and elected by unanimous vote of the members present.

- Treasurer: Speakman
- Corresponding Secretary: Savage
- FON representative: Norman Martin
- Membership committee: Carrick, Riley, Young, A. Falls
- Programme committee: B. Falls, Bodsworth, Aird, Bendell, Savage, Tasker

Speaker:

The speaker, Ken Armson, was introduced by Keith Reynolds. He was formerly a professor in the Faculty of Forestry at U. of T. At one time he was seconded temporarily to the provincial government to devise a scheme of Forest Management Agreements. Later he was appointed to a newly created position of Provincial Forester in the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) and remained for some years. Now retired, he has been involved with the Environmental Assessment Hearings on Forest Management and this was the topic of his talk. He commented that he last spoke to the Brodie Club 30 years ago.

In the hearings currently under way in Thunder Bay, Ontario is going through a unique process in which the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Forest Industry, environmental and native organizations are all involved. The speaker outlined the background of the hearings which result from the passage of the Environmental Assessment Act of 1975. Forest management on Crown lands was

entirely a government activity and came within the act, so it was necessary to evaluate the environmental impact of forest management practices. MNP set up a committee in 1976 to decide on a response. In the absence of a plan it was necessary to get a ministerial exemption. It took until 1981-82 to put together a draft document to take to the Minister of the Environment. This was made public and it was then necessary to hold 'pre-consultation meetings' inviting all parties with possible interests - such as native organizations, and all ministries which had anything to do with crown lands. Municipal and regional forests are not included. The meetings were held in 1983-85. The submissions were examined to decide what to incorporate in the plan. Not all of the submissions had much to do with forest management, but dealt with other values. It was decided to produce a plan for timber management, rather than forest management in the broadest sense. The final timber management plan was presented to the Minister of the Environment in December 1985. Then an in-depth review within the government occurred. Various ministries reviewed the document for 18-20 months, and their concerns resulted in modifications to the plan. In December 1987 the modified plan was submitted to the Minister of the Environment. MNP decided to go ahead with open hearings rather than leave the review entirely up to the Environment Ministry. Some regarded it as an opportunity to educate the public about forest management. A three member board was appointed, and Thunder Bay was chosen as the location of the main hearings with a series of hearings in other parts of the province later.

Hearings commenced in May 1988. Proceedings are formal as in a court room. Involved parties are represented by lawyers, and may call witnesses who are subject to cross-examination. MNP has been presenting evidence since they and their evidence is still not complete. Their evidence is organized into 17 different 'panels' and is made available in written questions which must be parties of standing who may then send in written questions which must be answered. Topics covered read like the outline of a course in forestry. The board has made several field visitations looking at forest conditions in company with representatives from parties of standing.

According to the speaker, this environmental assessment has been "more progress than content". The public, although welcome, has not been attracted to the hearings. Between May and September only 6 members of the public attended the hearings. There has been very little attention from the media. The process is very slow and very expensive. The cost in the first year has been about \$10 million, and the total may be reach \$30 million. There may be 100,000 pages of transcript. However the board is being educated as are some of the counsel. The function of the board is to make a decision about future timber management. They will likely specify conditions under which timber management will be done in the future. They have asked for submissions for conditions. MNP had to put theirs forward, but the other parties have not done so yet. The decisions of the board are expected in 1991 or 1992. The Minister of the Environment can then accept or reject or amend them. The matter would probably go to cabinet.

During a lengthy question period, incompletely recorded here, many concerns were expressed and further information was provided.

Although the board will make "decisions" these appear to some to have no more force than recommendations since they need not be accepted. There was also concern about the extreme length of the process.

Some funding (about \$300,000) was made available to outside parties in these expensive hearings but there was not enough for all. The parties involved in the hearing are:

- 1) MNP
- 2) Ministry of the Environment

- 3) Forests for Tomorrow, a coalition of environmental groups (FOM, Sierra Club, U of T Botany Conservation Group, Wildlands League, Temiskaming Environmental Action Group) which is represented by two lawyers.
- 4) Federation of Hunters and Anglers
- 5) Northern Ontario Tourist Outfitters
- 6) Ont. Forest Industries and Ont. Lumber Manufacturers Associations
- 7) Several native organisations

The information in the panels is not organized for easy access, even to well informed people. MNP has difficulty answering questions because data are dispersed in district offices.

When asked about the current Temagami controversy the speaker pointed out that land claims were a political matter, but that the area at issue was not, as some claimed, the last mature stand of red and white pine in the province. MNP says there are 145 thousand hectares of mature and overmature pine forest in the province, and between 5 and 7 thousand hectares are slated for cutting in the next 10 years.

Norm Martin asked how the forestry profession would react if, due to a shift in public perception, they were required to manage forests primarily for uses other than wood production. Gimson replied that harvesting does not destroy forest in a Canadian context - forest comes back. Also management can provide for other values besides timber, e.g. moose range. Martin stressed that the public concern was for what is being lost in harvesting of old growth forest, e.g. habitat for special species.

Falls said that major concerns in world forests were 1) erosion -loss of soil fertility, 2) oxygen production, and 3) diversity of species, and asked whether there were jeopardizing these in Ontario. The speaker replied that erosion was not a problem in rocky sites, but full tree harvesting would be a concern on more productive soils. Oxygen production would probably be greater in younger forests. Diversity could be affected by management practices e.g. selective cutting in hardwoods would give rise to a monoculture. In boreal forest seeding and planting gives more diversity than occurs after a fire. "Plantation monocultures are a myth".

Paul Aird thanked the speaker for a stimulating presentation.

Members' Observations:

- 1) John Reynolds saw a parasitic jaeger at the Leslie Street spit on Sept 16. At Presquile two weekends ago a spotted sandpiper flying far out was attacked by a merlin. The sandpiper escaped by diving under water and remaining under for about 15 seconds. It then swam about a bit and took off from the water.
- 2) Keith Reynolds once saw black-crowned night herons diving into and taking off from water. Recently at Timmins he saw 7 great grey owls from a taxi between the airport and town.
- 3) Aird reported that the 1989 census of Kirtland warblers found 212 in Michigan, 1 in Wisconsin, and none in Ontario. Their habitat in Michigan is being managed for both Kirtland warblers and wood products.
- 4) Savage reported that at the Hiscox site between Buffalo and Batavia, N.Y. fluted points fell out of mastodon skulls. This is evidence that mastodons were hunted 11,000 years ago.

The meeting adjourned at 10.45 pm.