

THE BRODIE CLUBMinutes of the 857th Meeting

The 857th Meeting of the Brodie Club was held on Tuesday 20 March 1990 in the Faunal Lab, South Borden Bldg., U. of T., commencing at 8.10 p.m. Young was Chairman, and Savage acted as Secretary.

After the meeting was called <sup>to</sup> order, the Roll was called. Eleven members and six guests were present (Margaret Bodsworth guest of Fred Bodsworth, Martin McNichol and Oliver Bertin guests of Bruce Falls, Dr. Wm. Rapley guest of Carrick, Jennifer Young guest of Don Young, and Dr. Malcolm Corkill guest of Auger). Keith and John Reynolds, and Tasker sent regrets. The Minutes of the 856th Meeting were read by Norm Martin, who moved their adoption; seconded by Aird; their adoption was unanimously approved.

Announcements

Norm Martin, as the F. O. N. representative of the Club, announced the opening of the Canadian National Sportsmen Show Gallery of Birds on 7 April '90 at the R.O.M., with some 300 birds mounted as if flying, with accompanying bird calls. Martin made several other announcements of F.O.N. activities.

Speaker

The Speaker of the Evening, Dr. David Hussell, of the Ministry of Natural Resources of Ontario, was introduced by Savage as having received his B. A. Sc. in Civil Engineering at the University of London before coming to Canada and entering the Ontario Department of Highways. He received his M. A. degree in Zoology at the University of Michigan and his Ph. D. in 1970. He was Director of the Long Point Observatory from 1974 - 82 and then joined the Ministry of Natural Resources as Research Scientist, doing research on White-tailed Deer in southern Ontario. His subject for the Evening was "The Influence of Food Abundance on Clutch Size and Brood Provisioning Behaviour of Tree Swallows at Long Point, Ontario".

Dr. Hussell first described his research in relating the clutch size of tree swallows nesting in the Long Point area to the abundance of food, as shown by the number of insects trapped on sticky paper over a sewage lagoon, a nearby open field and at the tip of Long Point. A positive co-relation<sup>of</sup> food abundance calculated by the Insect Biomass Index, and clutch size was demonstrated on numerous graphs and charts. Comment was made on the increase of mean clutch size with an increase in latitude above 67 degrees N. latitude, the longer daylight hours providing more time to feed the young. The role of nest predation in reducing clutch size, e.g. by fox snakes, was described and illustrated. A sequence in feeding nestlings begging for food appeared to give a reasonably fair distribution of food.

After numerous questions and answers, the Speaker was thanked by Bendell for an enjoyable, well rounded and fascinating presentation. Applause followed.

Members' Notes and Observations

Bendell reported a magpie evident in Mississauga two weeks previously, as well as robin, killdeer and fox sightings recently.

Bruce Falls, at Long Point three days previously had seen swans and ducks, and believed that spring migrations in general appeared to be about one week earlier than usual.

Speakman two days previously had seen crows diving into a stand of pine trees where a great horned owl nest was located. The two pileated woodpeckers had reversed their nesting holes.

Adjournment : The Meeting adjourned at 10.15 p.m.

*Handwritten signature*

NOTE

The Membership Committee of the Brodie Club has recommended the applications of Oliver Bertin and Dr. Martin McNicholl for membership in the Brodie Club (c.v.s attached). For your information.