

BRODIECLUB
ANNUAL FIELD DAY
1999

The 1999 Brodie Club Field Day was held on June 26 at the country home of Jock McAndrews in Codrington, north of Brighton. Ann, Sandra Eadie and I drove out in the morning. I had conveniently forgotten to bring directions and didn't know which house to visit. Queries in town drew a blank but some did allow that the folks in the big house with the cupola came from the city on weekends. We turned into the drive and were reassured by the licence plate DOCJOC. Indeed this was the place and we were welcomed by Jock, Bill Carrick and his grandson Zachary who were there ahead of us.

For a time we visited the neighbour, Len Jackson, a retired teacher whose hobby is constructing models of old buildings in his yard. There was a town hall, a railway station, a church, and stores and houses. We wandered among them admiring the craftsmanship. Back at Jock's house which was built in the 1880s and now bears the name 'Dunpollen,' we were treated to a tour of the partly restored interior and a variety of curiosities, old and new.

Before lunch we visited the nearby creek and yours truly managed to net a few fish - Redbelly Dace, Black-nosed Dace, and a Brook Stickleback. Birds were singing in the garden - a Redstart, Red-eyed Vireo, Catbird and several others. It became quite warm but there was a cooling breeze on the porch that Jock had added to the house. Norm Martin arrived and we all had lunch. At one point, Sandra upon entering the house asked what bird had called - it was the one o'clock oriole on Jock's bird clock.

After a leisurely lunch we all (plus Jock's dog) set out by car to visit various points of interest. Wild Turkeys failed to show - wrong time of day. We soon found ourselves viewing a gravel operation that exposed a cross section of the Codrington esker. Bank Swallows were much in evidence.

Next stop was at the Goodrich-Loomis Conservation Area where we saw Ebony Jewelwings (damselflies) flitting over a stream. In an old field, we viewed beautiful clumps of Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) in full bloom. Then it was on to the old Red Cloud Cemetery renowned as an example of prairie grassland. Besides the Butterfly Weed, we saw prairie grasses (Big and Little Bluestem, Indian grass), New Jersey Tea, Black Oak and many other species. Jock had provided us with plant lists. Efforts are being made to discourage trees and non-native species and at the same time respect the graveyard itself.

After driving through the Northumberland Forest we arrived at our final stop, Peter's Woods Provincial Nature Reserve. A walk through the old growth forest included views of impressively large Sugar Maples; White Oaks, White Pines and other trees, several of which Norm estimated to be between 300 and 400 years old. On the ground were a great variety of ferns and other plants. We had discussions about gap-replacement and forest composition and succession.

We thanked Jock for his hospitality and leadership of the tour. A fine time was had by all!

Bruce Falls

NEXT MEETING:

The 94th meeting of the Brodie Club will be held in Room 432 of the Ramsay Wright Building (UofT) at 8 pm on Tuesday, September 21, 1999. It will be Member's Night. Members are encouraged to show pictures and/or talk about their summer adventures or other topics. Come prepared.

At the meeting, the Brodie Club will seek approval for new fees for the year, and will accept nominations for the executive, with the elections scheduled for the October meeting. Carrick would like to remind forgetful members that if they are behind in their fees, they risk the loss of their monthly minutes.

Alexandra Eadie would like to seek membership in the Club. Her resume and nominating letter are enclosed.

2076 Gerrard St. E.,
Toronto, Ont.,
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Ann Falls,
Membership secretary
Brodie Club

Dear Ann,

I would like to recommend Sandra Eadie for membership in the Brodie Club. I have worked with her for about 10 years at The Globe & Mail, where she has been a financial analyst for the Report of Business. During that time, she has shown considerable interest in nature and especially birds.

Knowing of her interest in wildlife, I invited her to a meeting of the Brodie Club some time ago. She found the occasion so interesting that she has repeatedly asked me if she can come again. I'm not sure how many meetings she has attended, but it is well in excess of the requisite three.

I have taken her bird watching down in the harbour many times, in all seasons of the year, looking for waterfowl and migrating birds and she has demonstrated a deep knowledge of the many varieties of birds in the area, as well as their lifestyle and habits.

She travels over most of southern Ontario on weekend birding trips, on her own or with a variety of friends and ornithological clubs, and frequently travels abroad to Africa, the Caribbean, Australia and the United States to look for new species. She is currently in Bermuda visiting her sister, in between scuba-diving and bird-watching.

Sandra is so keen that she keeps her field-glasses and her collection of bird books at her desk at work, ready for use at short notice. And that has proven to be a handy resource when The Globe needs an instant expert on avian matters.

Like me, Sandra has no professional interest in biology but I believe her keen interest in the area more than makes up for that .

" Oliver Bertin

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Oliver Bertin". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Alexandra (Sandra) Eadie
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Toronto, Ont.
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I am thrilled to be considered for membership in the Brodie Club. I have enjoyed the company of members and I have learned so much from the fascinating series of lectures presented at the club as a guest of Oliver Bertin, my friend and colleague from the Globe and Mail.

My deeper interest in nature began when, in the mid 1970s I moved to St. Andrew's, New Brunswick, the location of an Environment Canada Fisheries Research Station where my husband worked. The variation of bird life throughout the year (ducks in winter, warblers in the spring, Osprey in the summer and the continually changing shorebird flocks) and the daily changes that come with the tides got me hooked to the observation of nature in action. Since then, I have spent hundreds of hours outdoors observing. I am especially passionate about birds and animals but the changes in mushrooms, wildflowers and trees through the year fascinate me too.

I have birded and observed animals in Kenya, Tanzania, Britain, Costa Rica, Mexico, Australia, New Zealand, the United States and across Canada. I have enjoyed snorkeling and, more recently, scuba diving in Bermuda where my sister lives. Bermuda has a fascinating underwater life in its coral reefs which surround (and make up) the island.

Evolution interests me especially, in particular, how birds of completely different lineage and genetic makeup converge to the same behaviours.

Born and raised in Montreal, I attended university in Kingston, Bonn, Germany and Sheffield (where I also taught and worked as a systems analyst). While in New Brunswick I worked in the forestry industry and also for the provincial government. I then moved to work for the government of British Columbia in the Ministry of Economic Development. Since 1983, I have lived and worked in Toronto-for the last 13 years at the Globe and Mail, Report on Business, as a statistician, researcher and writer. I have my own column four days a week, in which I highlight statistical trends and relationships in financial markets by using a combination of words, graphics and numbers. I have also done several short reviews of books for the Globe, mostly on birds, animals and outdoors subjects.

I live in Toronto with Warren Clements who is the commentary editor at the Globe. ~

Memberships:

Ontario Field Ornithologists. the American Birding Association. the South Peel Naturalist Club. the Toronto Zoo. Federation of Ontario Naturalists. Bermuda Audubon Society.

Education:

B.A. (honours) Queen's University. Kingston. Ont. Major in mathematics. minor in German plus studies in economics

M.B.A. University of Sheffield. England.

I have also studied post-graduate economics in Bonn (Germany) and at the University of Victoria. in British Columbia and I have several financial industry qualifications.