

THE
BRODIE
CLUB



PROCEEDINGS

No. 13

For 1948

EDITORIAL

To the outside world Canadians are well known for their initiative and restless energy, qualities springing naturally from the fusion of the blood and thoughts of many races and peoples. But at home we are said to be unhappy unless we have something to worry about. Canadian naturalists indeed find one of their keenest joys in worrying over the state and fate of soil, waters, plants, and wildlife. There is no shortage of problems to worry over, but for once let us turn the coin and examine the brighter side.

We live in a country made, one would think, expressly to order for naturalists. Its hard and hearty climate fosters a vast and fascinating array of animate nature. In southern Ontario we sit astride one of the world's great flyways and with our backs to some of the richest and handsomest farmlands on the continent. The wilderness still lies close to our back door. Little farther afield lie some of the few uncharted areas in the world.

Instead of worrying we might do well to celebrate an extraordinary change in the attitude of the public to natural history and nature study. We might remember the sudden and great expansion of the wildlife service of the Dominion and the spectacular improvement in the provinces' fish and wildlife management. Research in universities and museums has likewise been expanded. Conservation is now 'news'. Few papers are without frequent articles about it, and conservation authorities already are established for about a dozen Ontario watersheds. The problems are not much more acute than they were ten years ago. The difference is that more people are aware of them now.

The Brodie Club, whose function is to interest and delight its members rather than to edify the public, can nevertheless turn with some pride to the fact that all of its members have had some part in these stirring events.

THE 454th MEETING—JANUARY 6th, 1948

Chairman, Satterly. Attendance, 29 + 4 visitors.

BUSINESS: Invitation to members to co-operate in international waterfowl census on January 11th. Report by Baillie on Christmas Bird Census.

OBSERVATIONS: *Cedar Waxwings Wintering at Toronto*, Owens. *Christmas Census in Texas*, Peterson. *A Raven at Aylmer, Ontario*, White. *Little Blue Heron at French River*, Hope. *Goshawk at Toronto*, Runnings. *Chipmunk Active on December 28th*, Clarke. *Unusual Bird Records at Toronto Island*, Miller. *Latest Census of Whooping Cranes*, Devitt.

PAPER: *Duck Studies at Delta, Manitoba*, Carrick. An account of the progress being made in waterfowl research at this unique station and aerial photographs of the territory.

THE 455th MEETING—JANUARY 20th, 1948

Chairman, Toner. Attendance, 28 + 6 visitors.

OBSERVATIONS: *Great Blue Heron and Wood Duck Found Dead in High Park*, Lindsay. *Tree Sparrow Holds its Own with House Sparrow*, Thompson. *Eggs of the Praying Mantis*, Owens. *Crossbills Common at Toronto*, Baillie. *A Sparrow Hawk Takes Advantage of Central Heating*, Fowle.

PAPER: *Pictorial Record of Exercise Muskoæ*, Gunn.

THE 456th MEETING—FEBRUARY 3rd, 1948

Chairman, Owens. Attendance, 23 + 2 visitors.

BUSINESS: Report from Corresponding Member A. E. Allin.

OBSERVATIONS: *Notes on the Reaction of Wild Animals to Injured Members of Their Own Species*, Lindsay. *Following a Fox Track*, Edwards. *Snowy Owl Scarcity in the Arctic*, Gunn. *Market Hunting in the British Isles*, Satterly. *The Tawny Pipit*, Miller. *Canada Jay Reported Near Toronto*, Devitt.

PAPERS: *Experiments in Selection*, MacArthur. An interim report on the results of a long-term selective experiment with the House Mouse.

Motion Pictures of the Delta Duck Station, Carrick.

THE 457th MEETING—FEBRUARY 17th, 1948

Chairman, Clarke. Attendance, 21 + 4 visitors.

BUSINESS: Need of new subscriptions to *Canadian Field-Naturalist*. Ontario Research Commission to meet February 20-21.

OBSERVATIONS: *Trumpeter Swans Wintering in Western Canada*, Brown. *Oyster Scale Insect*, Owens. *Additions to Algonquin Park Birds*, Miller. *Notes on a Screech Owl*, Mayall. *Mortality of Deer in Winter*, Clarke.

PAPER: *Tree Hybridization*, Dr. C. Heimburger. An expert discussion on the extent and results of hybridizing among trees in a natural state.

THE 458th MEETING—MARCH 2nd, 1948.

Chairman, Ussher. Attendance, 19 + 1 visitor

BUSINESS: Report from the Library Committee. Invitation from Prospectors and Developers Association to attend its annual meeting.

OBSERVATIONS: *Flight Speed of Snow Buntings*, Harrington. *Glaucous and Iceland Gulls at Toronto*, Baillie. *Decrease in European Hare Population*, Clarke. *Great Horned Owl Kills House Cat*, Hope. *Winter Observations on Moose*, Peterson.

PAPER: *Conservation in the Department of Planning and Development*, Mayall. An up-to-date picture of work in progress on flood control, land use, wildlife, and recreation areas.

THE 459th MEETING—MARCH 16th, 1948

Chairman, Thompson. Attendance, 22 + 2 visitors

BUSINESS: Federation of Ontario Naturalists representative reports brief for birds of prey was filed today with Fish and Game Committee.

OBSERVATIONS: *The Omnivorous Bullfrog*, Lindsay. *Cardinals Winter in Collingwood*, Devitt. *Nesting Great Horned Owls*, Satterly. *Early Return of Robins*, Runnings. *Market for North American Birds' Eggs in England*, Harrington. *An Arboreal Groundhog*, Mayall. *Carolina Wren at Toronto*, Baillie. *Report from Port Arthur*, Keith Dennis.

PAPER: *What Am I Doing Here?* Rutter. An autobiographical sketch of an amateur and non-specializing naturalist, with notes on his origin and how and why he now occupies his time.

THE 460th MEETING—MARCH 30th, 1948

Chairman, Gunn. Attendance, 24 + 3 visitors

BUSINESS: Next meeting deferred for one week in order not to conflict with annual meeting of American Society of Mammalogists. Invitation received from Buffalo Ornithological Society to join their field day on April 11th.

OBSERVATIONS: *Silver Maple in Bloom on March 26th*, Owens. *Garter Snakes Active on March 21st*, Outram. *Intelligence of the Bison*, Lindsay. *Bird Banding in a City Garden*, Ross Baker. *More News from Port Arthur*, Claude Garton. *Bald Eagles, Whistling Swans, and Canvas-backs*, Baillie. *A Gray Fox from Welland County*, Downing. *Relation of Barometric Pressure to Spring Migration*, Gunn.

PAPER: *Zoological Parks in Toronto*, Campbell. A history of the city's zoological collections and stories from the speaker's many years of experience as a zoo curator.

THE 461st MEETING—APRIL 20th, 1948

Chairman, Hope. Attendance, 15 + 2 visitors

BUSINESS: Discussion on annual field day and a decision to discontinue this event, since it had become apparent that it was not now a necessary part of the Club's activities.

OBSERVATIONS: *The Naturalist's Library*, Toner. *Crossbills Nesting in Southern Ontario*, Baillie. *Possible Effect of Insect Control on Amphibians*, Emery. *Spring Census of Woodcock*, Clark. *A Woodcock at Fort William*, Hope.

PAPER: *Life History and Habits of the Bullfrog*, Lindsay. A very complete account of this interesting frog's habits, economic importance, and present status.

THE 462nd MEETING—MAY 4th, 1948

Chairman, Emery. Attendance, 32 + 2 visitors.

BUSINESS: Distribution of Proceedings for 1947. Announcement of following elections: to Active Membership, C. D. Fowle; to Corresponding Membership, K. Mayall; to Honorary Membership, C. D. Richards.

OBSERVATIONS: *Pileated Woodpecker near Bond Lake*, Devitt. *A Rabbit's Range of Vision*, Thompson. *American Bittern Aights on Roof of Garage in the City*, Baillie. *Early Abundance of Spring Beauties*, Bell. *Snakes in the Cellar*, Southam. *Scarcity of Ruffed Grouse*, Harrington. *Whistling Swans at Ashbridge's Bay*, Runnings. *Crossbills Still in Toronto Region*, Hope. *An Osprey on the Humber*, Mayall. *Ruffed Grouse Nesting at Cedar Mills*, Edwards. *Unknown Predator Destroys Bluebird in Nest Box*, Snyder. *Robin Nests in Street Light*, Rutter.

PAPER: *Life History of Echinoderms*, Ide. Remarkable underwater motion pictures of the Starfish, Sea Urchin, and Sea Cucumber.

THE 463rd MEETING—SEPTEMBER 28th, 1948.

Chairman, Baillie.

Attendance, 20.

BUSINESS: Announcement that J. W. MacArthur and Y. Edwards had been transferred to Corresponding Membership due to their having moved from the city. Committee on Revision of the Constitution reported completion of its work. Financial report from the Treasurer. A motion that resident Corresponding Members be required to pay the same fee as Active Members was carried. A motion to transfer from Corresponding to Honorary Membership C. E. Corfe, J. Edmonds, T. B. Kurata, H. G. Macklin, and E. V. Rippon was carried. Nomination of officers and committees.

OBSERVATIONS: *Difficulty of Identifying Notes of Night Migrants*, Snyder. *First Ontario Record of Wood Ibis*, Hope. *Turkey Vulture Moves North*, Harrington. *A Black Rail on Lake Erie*, Runnings. *Bat Caught on Fishing Line*, Outram. *Bat Flying by Day and Feeding from the Ground*, Miller. *Squirrel Population Increasing in Algonquin Park*, Fowle. *The Prairie Warbler in Frontenac County*, Lindsay. *Opuntia fragilis in Ontario*, Brown.

THE 464th MEETING—OCTOBER 12th, 1948

Chairman, Boggs.

Attendance, 19 + 1 visitor.

BUSINESS: Announcement of election to Active Membership of K. Mayall. Officers and Committees elected as follows: Library Committee, Bell, Devitt, Toner. Membership Committee, Boggs, Emery, Snyder. Proceedings Committee, Mayall, Runnings, Rutter. Programme Committee, Brodie, Hope, Miller. Representative to Ontario Federation of Naturalists, Rutter. Secretary, Rutter. Treasurer, Lindsay.

OBSERVATIONS: *A record of the Dwarf Sumac in Ontario*, Mayall. *Pileated Woodpecker in the Don Valley*, Thompson. *Adverse Spring Weather Affects Numbers of Insectivorous Birds*, Lindsay and Snyder. *The Starling at Kirkland Lake*, Fowle. *Bank Swallow Colony Preyed on by Black Bear*, Gunn. *The Muscovy Duck*, Snyder. *Road to Survival*, Toner. *Status of the Whooping Crane and Other Western Birds*, Bard.

THE 465th MEETING—OCTOBER 26th, 1948

Chairman, Brodie.

Attendance, 18 + 3 visitors

OBSERVATIONS: *Canada Jay at Mount Albert*, Brown. *Parasites of the White-tailed Deer*, Fowle. *Effect of Weather on Feeding of Ruffed Grouse*, Harrington. *Pileated Woodpecker Increasing in Frontenac County*, Lindsay. *Plant Hunters in the Andes*, Bell. *Wild Ducks Attracted to Parks by Captive Birds*, Devitt.

PAPER: *Charles Fothergill (1782-1840)*, Baillie. An outline of the life and work of an early Canadian who, besides playing a prominent part in public affairs, found time to compile the earliest known treatises on the fauna of Ontario.

THE 466th MEETING—NOVEMBER 9th, 1948.

Chairman, Devitt.

Attendance, 30 + 8 visitors

BUSINESS: Letters from Honorary Members Corfe and Rippon.

PAPERS: *The Museum's 1948 Field Work on Cape Henrietta Maria*, Hope. The story of an expedition that presented more than the usual hazards and difficulties; a description of the climate and topography of the country; and a summary of the botanical and ornithological records.

The Mammals of Cape Henrietta Maria, Peterson. An account of the mammals found by the 1948 party in this little-known region, and something of their adaptations to life in the arctic.

THE 467th MEETING—NOVEMBER 23rd, 1948

Chairman, Downing.

Attendance, 19 + 2 visitors

OBSERVATIONS: *Meadow Mouse Resists Attack by Shrike*, Falls. *Blue Goose on Grenadier Pond*, Hope. *A Good Year for Blue Jays*, Snyder. *An Old Photograph of Toronto Naturalists*, Brown. *A Red-fruited Manitoba Maple*, Owens. *Red-headed Woodpeckers Winter in High Park*, Lindsay. *A Raccoon Dog in Ontario*, Downing.

PAPERS: *The Delta Research Station*, Carrick. An illustrated talk on the latest developments at this important Manitoba station, which is yearly adding invaluable data to our knowledge of conservation and control methods for waterfowl.

The 1948 Pelee Island Pheasant Shoot, Fowle. The open season for Pheasants is now a profitable business for Pelee Island, and the insular location and almost ideal habitat present research workers with unusual opportunities.

THE 468th MEETING—DECEMBER 7th, 1948

Chairman, Fowle.

Attendance, 22 + 4 visitors

BUSINESS: Arrangements made to hold Christmas Bird Census on December 19th.

OBSERVATIONS: *Carolina Wren in High Park*, Lindsay. *First Barred Owl of the Season*, Baillie. *Birds Killed at Niagara Falls Coming to Museum as Specimens*, Hope. *Autumn Concentration of the Lake Shiner in Ontario Waters*, Mayall. *Beavers in Victoria County*, Rutter. *Observations on Deer in Close Proximity to Wolves*, Fowle.

PAPER: *Mammals of Indonesia*, A. De Vos. From his first-hand experience with the natural history of the East Indies the speaker drew a graphic picture of the mammal population, how it had been affected by the war, and its outlook in the future.

24th CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS—DECEMBER 19th

Greatest number of observers (80) on record listed sixty-eight species in spite of very adverse weather. Whistling Swan Lesser Scaup, Blue-winged Teal, and Chipping Sparrow were added to previous lists to bring the total for all censuses to 124.

THE 469th MEETING—DECEMBER 21st, 1948

Chairman, Emery.

Attendance, 25 + 2 visitors

BUSINESS: Report on Christmas Bird Census. American Anthropological Association to meet in Toronto. Announcement that Dr. Jack Satterly had found it necessary to resign from membership.

OBSERVATIONS: *Brunnich's Murre and King Eider on Lake Simcoe*, Devitt. *Razor-billed Auk at Trenton*, Baillie. *Increase of Black-crowned Night Herons on Pelee Island*, Campbell. *Status of Pinnated Grouse on Manitoulin Island*, Clarke. *Black Squirrels Attacking Man*, Leeson. *Varying Hare Plentiful this Year in Algonquin Park*, Peterson.

PAPER: *Commercial Fishing in Ontario*, Scott. Comparison of financial returns shows fish to be one of this Province's major natural resources. Curious lack of fish check lists. The fall fishing season on Lake Erie.

MEMBERSHIP

The membership at the end of 1948 consisted of 29 Active, 41 Corresponding, and 13 Honorary Members. Active and Honorary Members follow:

Active

J. L. Baillie	Prof. T. F. Mellwraith
O. D. Boggs	K. Mayall
J. A. Brodie	D. S. Miller
W. H. Carrick	A. A. Outram
Dr. C. H. D. Clarke	R. L. Peterson
O. E. Devitt	J. B. C. Runnings
S. C. Downing	R. J. Rutter
F. H. Emery	W. B. Scott
C. D. Fowle	T. M. Shortt
W. W. H. Gunn	L. L. Snyder
Dr. P. Harrington	H. H. Southam
C. E. Hope	S. L. Thompson
Dr. F. P. Ide	G. C. Toner
Dr. J. Leeson	R. D. Ussher
R. V. Lindsay	

Honorary

G. S. Bell	T. B. Kurata
H. H. Brown	H. G. Macklin
Dr. J. A. Campbell	L. T. Owens
C. E. Corfe	C. D. Richards
Prof. J. R. Dymond	E. V. Rippon
John Edmonds	Dr. E. M. Walker
S. Harrod	

The average attendance of members during the year was twenty-three.