THE BRODIE CLUB

Established 1921

Website: http://thebrodieclub.eeb.utoronto.ca

THE 1,094th MEETING OF THE BRODIE CLUB

The 1,094th meeting of the Brodie Club was held on Tuesday, 20 September 2016 in Room 432 of the Ramsay Wright Laboratories of the University of Toronto.

Chair: Bruce Falls
Secretary: Justin Peter

The meeting was called to order at 7:36 pm and was attended by 35: 30 members and 5 guests.

Roll Call:

Present: Abraham, E. Addison, R. Addison, Bertin, Bryant, Coady, Crins, Currie, Curry, Daniels, Dengler, Dunn, Eadie, A. Falls, B. Falls, Hussell, Iron, A. Juhola, H. Juhola, King, Machin, Martyn, McAndrews, Peter, Pittaway, Rapley, J. Rising, T. Rising, Seymour, Slessor

Guests: Steve LaForest (guest of King), Warren Dunlop (Crins), Robert Falls (A. and B. Falls), Dominic Stones (Daniels), Sharon Hick (McAndrews)

Regrets: Aird, Beadle, Carley, Johnson, Kotanen, Larsen, Obbard, Peck, Reading, Riley, Speakman, Sutherland, Tomlinson, Zoladeski

Minutes: Minutes of the last meeting were accepted as distributed (moved by Bertin, second by J. Rising)

Committee Reports: Juhola is handing over Treasurer duties to Bryant. He was enthusiastically applauded for his years of service.

Bryant reported on 1100th meeting plans. The date is 14 March, 2017 (not usual meeting date). The speaker will be Mike Runtz. Venue is the Faculty Club, and tickets will be $75 ($55 at 1000th meeting 11 years ago). If each member brings at least one guest, we should break even.

Addison reported for Program Committee: The next meeting will be on October 18, 2016, and will feature Aleta Karstad and Fred Schueler speaking on mudpuppies. Plans for the rest of the year include talks by Erica Nol on songbirds in settled landscapes of Ontario, Peter Mills on his new book on Ontario amphibians, Justin Peter on natural history in parts of India, and other speakers whose topics are as yet unspecified.

Announcements:

Bruce Falls gave tribute to **Ed Bousfield**. (For the main newspaper obituary, see http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/ottawacitizen/obituary.aspx?pid=181414739)

We were sorry to learn of Ed's passing on September 7th at age 90. He had been ill for a few months at his retirement home. Ed had been a member of the Brodie Club since 1990. He and I were undergraduates together in Honours Biology at U of T. We met in the fall of 1946 – 70 years ago, and our paths have crossed several times since. Ed was part of a large extended family. He did his own part - married 3 times and had 4 children and 9 grandchildren.

When you saw this tall handsome clever man you might think he had a bright future. In any case he was willing to try anything- such as making meat pies and delivering newspapers in high school. He was very musical and led several bands in the 40's, sang barbershop, played in a Salvation Army band and continued to play trumpet into his 70's and guitar into his 80's. He liked to play chess and bridge, was an avid curler and later took up lawn bowling.

Was it all play and no work? As a careful observer and artist, Ed naturally gravitated to systematics, describing over 200 species of aquatic invertebrates new to science. His specialty was amphipod crustaceans, on which he became a world authority. He gave two talks on his favorite subjects to the Brodie Club – in February 1986 and April 2014. His title for the last talk was "Amphipods – shrimps without shells." He received a Master's degree with A.G. Huntsman at U of T, and a PhD at Harvard. Ed joined the staff of the National Museum of Natural Sciences, where he worked from 1950 to 1984. After that he had spells at the ROM and at the Royal BC Museum. In BC he wandered a bit from the true faith to try to add some science to the study of sea serpents (good for him). In December 2002 he spoke to the Brodie Club on the search for aquatic mega-serpents in Pacific North America.

So did work overtake the playground? As Ed himself said "I can't believe the Canadian government has paid me … for doing something that has been such a lifelong challenge and sheer joy…How lucky can one be?" And how lucky we were to have known Ed Bousfield!

Ed received many honours, in particular a Public Service Outstanding Achievement Award, and was a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, a Past President of the Canadian Society of Zoologists, and an Honorary Member of the Canadian Field-Naturalist's Club.

There will be a small reception at the retirement residence where he lived on Thursday September 29th, 3 to 5 pm. Further details will be distributed later.

Bob Curry made the following remarks on the life and contributions of **Alan Wormington** (1954-2016). While not a Brodie Club member, Alan had a significant influence on Ontario ornithology.

Alan Wormington of Leamington, Ontario died on September 3, 2016 after battling bone cancer for the past 30 months. Alan was born in Hamilton, Ontario and lived there for his first 20 years before he moved to his home just outside the Point Pelee gates in order to be where the birds were.

Alan actually began his nature study with butterflies and, as with birds, combined the sport of field birding and butterflying with superb scholarship. His favourite locations were, of course, Point Pelee and Northern Ontario including the north shore of Lake Superior and the Hudson-James Bay Lowlands. In fact, his field work opened up these two northern areas to the larger birding community.

Alan Wormington and Roger Tory Peterson, Point Pelee, May 25, 1975.

Alan's Ontario Bird Life List was the largest at 445 species and, similarly, he surely saw more Ontario butterfly species than anyone else. His list of birds seen at Point Pelee may never be surpassed. He was recognized by his peers as the finest field birder of the last 50 years. He discovered and added with complete documentation seven new species to the Checklist of Ontario Birds: Lesser Nighthawk (1974), Royal Tern (1974), Fish Crow (1978), Cave Swallow (1989), Plumbeous Vireo (1997), Sooty/Short-tailed Shearwater (2010) and Kelp Gull (2012). His Lepidoptera collection is being donated to the Royal Ontario Museum. As with birds it contains numerous specimens new to or extremely rare in the province: Southern Dogface, Great Southern White, Oak Hairstreak, Marine Blue, Long-tailed Skipper, Funereal Skipper and many more.

Although not an ornithologist or lepidopterist in the strictest sense of the word, Alan knew more about the Ontario status and distribution of his two chosen faunal groups than anyone. He had no formal education but his research was indefatigable. Jim Richards has described his death as "the greatest loss to Ontario ornithology since the death of James L. Baillie". Not just in Ontario but across North America he was renowned as a leader in field identification and in all aspects of birding. He was a founding member of the Ontario Bird Records Committee and its longest serving member. His many articles have appeared in scholarly journals such as: Birders Journal; North American Birds; Ontario Birds; Point Pelee Natural History News (2001 – 2003) a journal that he initiated and edited but could not sustain because, in addition to all his other research and writing, he wrote 90 % of the content. He was the Point Pelee sub-regional editor for North American Birds Ontario Region for many years. His Point Pelee Annual Bird Reports were exhaustive in detail and represent a wealth of information for amateur and researchers alike.

Alan and friends Point Pelee, May 2005. L to R. John Lamey, Glenn Coady Dan Salisbury, Alan Wormington and Bob Curry -photo Glenda Slessor

Alan had three almost complete manuscripts he intended to publish: Birds of Point Pelee; Rare Birds of Ontario; and Butterflies of Point Pelee. His friends and colleagues will attempt to see this legacy come to fruition. He will be missed.

SPEAKERS: Thanks to George Bryant, Glenn Coady, Bob Curry, Jean Iron, Carolyn King and Jim Rising for sharing their presentations on Members' night and also for writing them up for these minutes.

George Bryant: Muskoka Herp Big Days

Sid looks for Pickerel Frogs in flooded ATV ruts

About twelve years ago I was conducting Bird Atlas surveys in the Torrance Barrens in southwest Muskoka and was impressed by the number of reptile and amphibian species stumbled upon. As it happens south-west Muskoka District represents the peak of herptile species numbers in Ontario. Of the 48 Ontario species, 35 have been recorded in Muskoka. So, with childhood pal Sid Daniels, our kids, grandkids and friends, the Muskoka Herp Days commenced, generally on the last weekend in May. A number of habitats are visited but the three main areas are Torrance Barrens, Hardy Lake and Gibson River power corridor.

The goal is to encounter a variety of herp species including dead on the road, eggs, larva and heard only. Mosquitoes are horrific in the Hardy Lake swamp but salamanders and woodland frogs abound, including the stunning Red Eft and pepper-bellied Four-toed Salamander. On a good day all nine species of toads and frogs may be encountered, some only by sound such as Spring Peeper. Pickerel Frogs were an interesting discovery frequenting muddy puddles along ATV trails -- not cedar swamps as expected. If the sun is out but the water is still cool, turtles will be basking. For every 100 Painted Turtles, one hopes to see one basking Blanding's Turtle. Five-lined Skinks are abundant on the barrens and present great photo ops.

Snakes provide the greatest diversity of herps. In the eye of a herper, Smooth Green Snake, Ring-necked Snake and Milk Snake represent some of the most beautiful creatures on earth. The reptile enthusiasts are actually all-round naturalists, so many other interesting animals have been recorded; e.g., Roadside Skipper, Brown Thrasher ground nest, Black Widow spider and—a lifer for George—Eastern Small-footed Bat. Domenic Stones found, photographed, googled and then identified this rarity: the smallest of our native bats.

Glen Coady:Piping Plover nests at Darlington

Coady detailed the first breeding and nest records for Piping plover (*Charadrius melodus circumcinctus*) for Durham Region (Darlington Provincial Park) and first successful nesting on the Canadian shore of Lake Ontario since 1934. Seven young were fledged at Darlington (14 from Wasaga), though two of them died before starting migration. The area of beach was posted and closed to public use and "Plover guardians" were put in place to monitor the nests and dialogue with the public. "Plover guardians" at a nest doubles the chances of the young fledging. Enclosures of wire fence were placed around the nests (enclosures increase nest success from 36 to 72%).


Plover Guardians Larry & Karin Fawthrop

Nest 1

- Pair discovered by Charmaine Anderson and Betsy Smith on 9 May 2016
- Male observed making nest scrapes 10-15 May 2016
- Male of this pair hatched and banded at Wasaga Beach, Ontario in 2015
- Female of this pair banded as an adult at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in Michigan in 2012
- Nest discovered at the one egg stage by Glenn Coady on 16 May 2016
- Four egg clutch completed on 22 May 2016
- Four eggs discovered successfully hatched by Joachim Floegel on 16-17 June 2016
- Banding of four hatchlings completed by John Brett of CWS on 28 June 2016
- Juvenile birds first capable of sustained flight on 16 July 2016

Nest 2

- Pair discovered by Glenn Coady & Audrey Nowicki on 21 May 2016
- Male observed making nest scrapes 22-26 May 2016
- Male of this pair hatched and banded at Whitefish Point in Michigan in 2015
- Female of this pair hatched and banded at Manistee, Michigan in 2015
- Nest discovered at the one egg stage by Glenn Coady on 27 May 2016
- Four egg clutch completed on 2 June 2016
- Four eggs discovered successfully hatched by Glenn Coady on 28 June 2016
- Banding of four hatchlings completed by John Brett of CWS on 12 July 2016
- Juvenile birds first capable of sustained flight on 27 July 2016

Piping Plover clutch, May 22 2016

Piping Plover chick at 6 days

Bob Curry

Club member Bob Curry and Bill Lamond of Brantford ventured to Northern Ontario July 28 – 31 this past summer primarily in search of northern Odonata. They drove to Smooth Rock Falls west of Cochrane and searched muskeg bogs along the Fraserdale Road to the north. Late summer is the time for Mosaic (*Aeshna*) Darners and Striped (*Somatochlora*) Emeralds. The trip was a great success as they caught and photographed eight species of *Aeshna*, including northern specialty Sedge Darner and Subarctic Darner and seven species of *Somatochlora* including four rare

Forcipate Emeralds and Ringed and Ocellated emeralds. Late season butterflies were also in evidence with 25 species seen in all. High lights were five Striped Hairstreaks at the northern edge of the range and Arctic Fritillary (140).

Other interesting taxa were orchids including Green Adder's-Mouth (*Malaxis unifolia*) and the fungus, Fly Agaric (*Amanita muscaria*).

Jean Iron: Iceland Circumnavigation

My previous trips to Iceland for Quest Nature Tours were on land, but this summer from 19 to 29 June 2016 was our first circumnavigation cruise. Seeing the land from the sea gives a fresh perspective and visiting the east side of the island, which is harder to access by road, are advantages of cruising. Highlighted in this presentation are new observations and reflections accompanied by photos and videos.

1. Vigur in the Westfjords is a privately owned island about 40 minutes by fast boat from the mainland. For its livelihood, the family depends on tourism and the production of down from Common Eider nests. Black Guillemots were everywhere, habituated to people. The island also has a large Arctic Tern colony and many Atlantic Puffins, all of which can be observed at close range.

2. Female Common Eiders with their broods of chicks are a common sight on every shoreline around Iceland in the summer. This was my first time seeing two females sleeping separate from their brood of about seven chicks, which formed a round ball. Having never seen this before, Ron Pittaway and I speculated it was for heat retention. This was observed in the evening around 10 p.m. It's bright all night in Iceland in early summer.

3. Asbyrgi Canyon is one of a few places in Iceland with a thriving Downy Birch forest (*Betula pubescens*) though looks nothing like what we think of as a forest. When the first settlers came to Iceland in the 9th and 10th centuries, a birch forest and woodland covered 25-40% of the land, but by 2014 were reduced to 2%. Generally Icelandic birch trees are stunted and under 2 metres tall, unlike the same species on mainland Europe where it attains heights of up to 20 metres. This website gives the history of Iceland's trees: http://www.skogur.is/english/forestry-in-a-treeless-land/

4. In the Eastfjords, visits to Vestdalur Valley and Skalanes Nature Reserve near Seydisfjordur are highly recommended for naturalists and birders. Vestdalur Valley with its river and countless waterfalls provide exciting photo opportunities. Low-growing vegetation and exquisite flowers will interest botanists. Nesting birds include Red-necked Phalarope, European Golden-Plover, Eurasian Whimbrel, Harlequin Duck and more.

Skalanes Nature Reserve is a gem 17 km outside Seydisfjordur, reached by traversing three swiftly-flowing rivers in a special aquatic vehicle. The reserve has majestic bird cliffs with nesting Black-legged Kittiwakes and Northern Fulmars. An Arctic Tern colony is being swamped by Nootka (Alaskan) Lupins *Lupinus nootkatensis* which are spreading rapidly everywhere. When ground-nesting birds such as Arctic Terns and European Golden-Plovers return in spring to nest on the ground, the vegetation is short. However, very soon lupins are tall and the Arctic Tern adults probably have difficulty getting down into the vegetation to feed and nurture their young. Students from Glasgow are studying the impact of Alaskan Lupin on ground-nesting birds.

"In recent years there has been some debate surrounding the Nootka Lupin (*Lupinus nootkatensis*) in Iceland. An introduced species used to combat soil erosion, lupin grows well on exposed, eroded soil areas however there is growing concern that in some places it is creeping away unchecked and out competing the native flora which consists of many delicate herbs, wild flowers, grasses and sedges. The lupin at Skálanes is now being studied using various methods so as to help develop a landscape scale plan for the control and removal of this plant. It appears from direct

observation within the reserve that there is a considerable loss of biodiversity in the areas that surround the lupin as it encroaches upon and out competes with other species." Glasgow University.

The production of down from nesting Common Eiders is an important activity at Skalanes. Predators such as Arctic Foxes are controlled. An incubator and dietary supplements help eider chicks that have become separated from their brood.

Dante the Gyrfalcon was rescued by the Glasgow University students, who at first surmised it flew into a fence, rendering it flightless. They built a large cage to house it during its recovery. The Gyr's feathers were very messy and it seemed to be covered in an oily substance, which is now thought to be Northern Fulmar vomit, a concoction of stomach oils that probably caused the Gyr's feathers to lose their waterproof qualities. It has since been transferred to a wildlife rehab sanctuary in Reykjavik to be cleaned.

A Parasitic Jaeger pair comprising a dark morph and light morph were videoed displaying to each other. Most Parasitic Jaegers in Iceland are dark morph birds.

5. Jokulsarlon Glacier Lagoon - Barnacle Geese, Arctic Terns and Great Skuas. As the glacier in Vatnajökull National Park retreats it leaves behind a large lake with icebergs, creating a prime tourist attraction. Here for the first time, I saw Barnacle Geese in Iceland. The first Icelandic breeding record was in 1964, and the colony at Jokulsarlon was discovered in 1998.

From the main road a new road to the parking lot cuts through an Arctic Tern colony, where chicks wander out onto the road with buses and cars coming and going all day. Four Great Skuas patrolled the Arctic Tern colony and took advantage of disturbance by grabbing an adult Arctic Tern and proceeding to eat it. I wondered how much disturbance of the colony should be permitted before there is preventative intervention.

6. Westman Islands off the south coast of Iceland - variation in Icelandic Herring Gulls. A fish processing plant in the harbour attracted many gulls. On close scrutiny, there was wide variation in wingtip pattern ranging from pure white of Glaucous Gull through to the expected black wingtip pattern of European Herring Gull. Mantle shades varied slightly. This shows interbreeding between Glaucous and Herring Gulls. *Icelandic Bird Guide* by Hilmarrson says the hybrids are fertile.

For more photos and videos, please see: http://www.jeaniron.ca/Trips/Iceland16/cruise16.htm

Carolyn King

Last spring, Steve LaForest and I were asked by Sarah Melamed of Rouge National Urban Park if we could help them run a public Moth Night/Butterfly Day on July 23-24. We had helped with a successful Moth Night in August 2015 in Glen Rouge Campground on Kingston Rd., but this year, Sarah said, she had found a much better location, with a good variety of habitats, which was sure to provide us with more and better moths. Bob Hunter Memorial Park, in Markham, was indeed a superior site, with nearby meadows and mixed forest, close to the valley of Little Rouge Creek.

We hung up two sheets, lit by mercury vapour bulbs, which began to attract moths as it got dark. We identified many of the species for the visitors and told them some of their natural history. After the visitors left, we left a moth trap with a mercury vapour light on all night and returned in the morning to photograph and release the moths.

We were pleased to get a good number of moths – black, white, green, orange and all colours in between, from an 8 cm wingspan underwing to tiny "micros" only 4 mm long. Many of them were new to us. We are still working on identifying my 320 images and others taken by our friend Gary Yankech, who was a great help. We expect to end up with a list of 100 confirmed species for the Rouge Park naturalists and we look forward to returning next summer to add to the list.

Jim Rising: Bird population changes in Algonquin Provincial Park: 1953-53 (Martin) vs. 1995-96 (Smith)

Population status of select bird species and plot type for 1952-53 and 1995-96 with overall population status of each (examples of changes; based on no. of singing males per 10 ha;average)

Species	Plot Type	1952-53	1995-96	Status
Eastern Wood Peewee	Maple-beech	2.0	2.3	Increase
Veery	Birch-aspen	5.6	1.8	Decrease
Red-eyed Vireo	Maple-beech	12.8	17.7	Increase
Blackburnian Warbler	hemlock	31.3	22.5	Decrease

For this brief presentation, I compared the results of breeding bird counts on 10 plots of more than 10 Ha in size, conducted in the four major types of woodlands in Algonquin Provincial Park, made in 1952-1953 by Norm Martin, assisted by Norma Martin, and in 1995-1996 by Andrew Smith. The four major forest types studied were maple-beech, birch-aspen, hemlock, and black spruce. Most of the birds studied were songbirds species, but flycatchers were also counted. Unfortunately the plot sizes used were too small for analyses usually conducted today; however, the anecdotal information obtained is of interest.

Of the 38 species, 19 had increased in number, 21 had decreased in number and one species was unchanged during that time. These 38 species included neo-tropical migrants, as well as short-distance migrants, partial migrants, and residents. There was no significant change for most species over that approximately 50 year period. One species showed a notable increase in number (Red-eyed Vireo) and another showed a large decrease in number (Blackburnian Warbler). Both winter in South America. The Veery, which also winters in South America, also decreased in number although not as much as the Blackburnian Warbler.

In summary, it appears that where suitable habitat exists the same species and number of birds of most species continued to breed in these Ontario woodlands toward the end of the last century as did approximately 50 years before that.

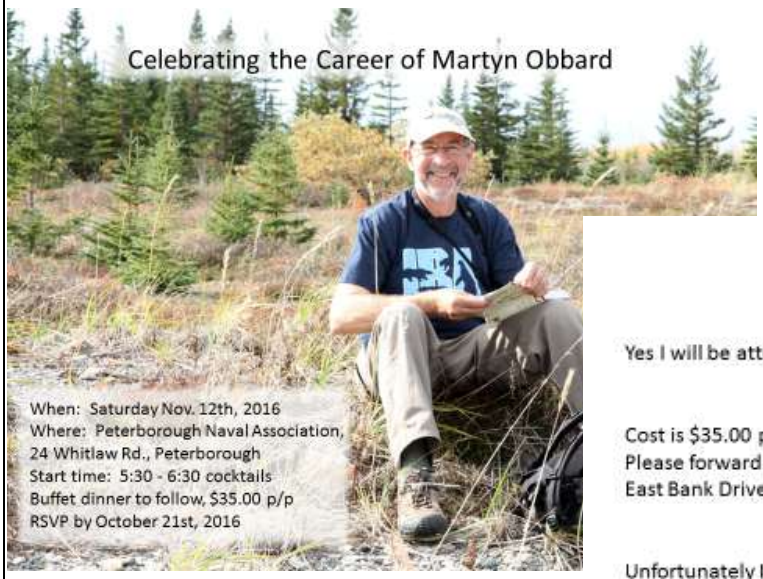
Because of the full schedule, questions were deferred to one-on-ones during refreshments, and observations were deferred to the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

Correspondence

For those of you who are perhaps a bit tired of the emphasis on birds and butterflies, there's a new book about to be published that we think you'd enjoy. Malcolm Telford has written a book of essays on his experiences in the field investigating some interesting, little celebrated arthropods and other strange creatures. (Malcolm taught the U of T invertebrate course in Zoology, now Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, before he retired. Most of his research involved the biomechanics of sand dollar movement, giving him an opportunity to explore the fabulous places and other animals where these flattened fauna live, as well.) Here's the site that describes the book and provides some nice photos: http://www.malcolmtelford.com/

Trudy and Jim (Rising)



Celebrating the Career of Martyn Obbard
RSVP

Yes I will be attending _____ (name) along with _____ (name)

Cost is $35.00 p/p (includes gift contribution) x _____ (# in party) = _____ (paid amount)
Please forward monies (will accept money, cheques, e-transfers) to Erica Newton, 2140 East Bank Drive, Peterborough, ON K9L 0G2, erica.newton@ontario.ca

Unfortunately I cannot attend but would like to send a contribution towards a gift _____ (How much enclosed)

I would like to say a few words _____(Y)_____(N)

If you have any pictures you would like to share, please forward to:
Marianne Sperling – marianne.sperlign@ontario.ca
Derek Potter - derek.potter@ontario.ca

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