

REPRINT OF THUNDER BAY FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB NEWSLETTER 1947
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Fort Arthur, Ont.
20 January 1947

Dear Fellow Naturalist:

With 1947 well begun your thoughts will be turning to the out of doors, and its remembered pleasures and anticipated joys will be surging upward in your mind. The Thunder Bay Field Naturalists' Club held its election of officers in November and made plans for an active year. We hope that you will find time to share your experiences with us and by your fellowship and interest help to make this year a happy and successful one both for yourself and for the club.

The officers for 1947 are

Honorary President : L. S. Dear
Past President : A. E. Allin
President : C. E. Carton
Vice President : G. K. Eoll
Secretary-Treasurer : K. Denis
Ft. William Executive : Mrs. C. H. Philpot, Dr. H. Mackenbush, R. Muir
Fort Arthur Executive : J. S. Lowcock, F. C. MacDonald

It is proposed to make our annual fees payable in January. We feel that this will be more convenient than having our year end in April. This, however, should not in anyway interfere with our annual dinner then.

The executive is planning three indoor meetings, one each in January, February, and March with our annual dinner in April. Our annual spring field day in co-operation with the Federation of Ontario Naturalists comes in late May. This is a fairly ambitious program which will require your assistance. Should you have any suggestion as to programs for meetings or ideas for field days or trips, the executive will be glad to receive them.

Our January meeting will be held 27 January at 8:00 p.m. in the Fort Arthur Public Library (film room downstairs). Several films of interest to naturalists will be shown. A. E. Allin will review observation highlights of 1946. A summary of the Bird Census carried out by the club on the 29th of December will be presented. J. S. Lowcock will review the "duck crop" of last fall. There will also be a period for discussion and exchanges of news.

Your executive is busy preparing a brief bibliography of some of the better books in the various facets of natural history. A more complete bibliography is also being prepared, this is to be kept on file by our historian and so available to any interested member. In addition members of the club who have built up collections of books and materials on special subjects are being asked to list these and have their lists available through the historian for your use. Much of this material is not only expensive but sometimes difficult to obtain and we feel that any member possessing such will be quite willing to share it with anyone who is particularly interested in that particular subject.

Two recent books of general interest now available in the Fort Arthur Public Library are worth mentioning. The Flowering Earth by Donald Culross Peattie is a survey of the world of life in the light of evolutionary development. It is written by a man with a rich background of scientific knowledge. His vocabulary is both tremendous and exquisite. This book is recommended as a good antidote for any trend to atheistic doctrines.

The Lost Woods is a pleasantly written account of selected experiences in the life of another well known naturalist, Edwin Way Teale. It is easy to read and will strengthen your urge to "go and do thou likewise".

Here are some of the birds observed in the past three months:
 Golden Eagle: captured at Wakingshaw Lake, 25 Nov.;
 Snowy Owl: several observed in the district;
 Evening and Pine Grosbeaks: quite numerous in both cities;
 Bohemian Waxwings: a large flock in the McVicar creek area during
 December to date;
 Shrike (probably Northern): Current River, Dacre St. 12 Jan. Can
 you add to these?

Did you know that the common and very beautiful blue Bottle or Closed Gentian found in this area is a species peculiar to the Lake Superior region? It is called Gray's Gentian or more correctly the Red-stemmed Gentian? Did you know that Dr. T. M. C. Taylor, then of Toronto University, found in 1936 specimens of a western species of legume, the Showy Cnytropis growing on the Sleeping Giant? Recently stations for both the American Littorella and the small white water lily have been established in this district. Has anyone observed the Ram's Head Lady Slipper during the past season?

And this leads to our last topic. What do you think of a regular new letter to our members? Let us have your views on this at our next meeting.

Hoping to see you on the 27th

Sincerely yours

K. Denis, Sec.-Treas.
Tel. N. 3092

C. E. Garton, Pres.
Tel. N. 2723

A. E. Allin, Past Pres.
Tel. S. 294

P.S. If you know of anyone interested in Natural History and who has not had an invitation to attend our meetings, take it upon yourself to pass along our sincerest invitation to join us in our meetings.