

appearance it resembled *Elymus mollis* Trin. being about 3 feet high, robust, and glaucous. But the spikelets all occurred singly, in this respect resembling the condition found in *Agropyrum*. A specimen was submitted to Dr. A. S. Hitchcock, the eminent Agrostologist of the Bureau of Plant Industry at Washington, D.C.,

who reported concerning it: "This specimen is different from anything that I have seen. I am unable to place it with any species known." The presumption at present is that it is a hybrid between *Elymus* and *Agropyrum* but further investigation will be necessary to determine its exact status.

JOHN TOWNSON

May 13, 1856 — October 9, 1934

On October 9, 1934, John Townson, a well-known naturalist-sportsman of Toronto, died suddenly while proceeding to his shooting blind at Weller's Bay, Prince Edward County, Ontario. Mr. Townson was born at Carlisle, England, on May 13, 1856. At the age of three he came to Canada with his parents who established residence in Toronto.

John Townson represented that admirable group of sportsmen who are primarily naturalists and secondarily marksmen. His bag was frequently divided between scientific collections and the tables of his many friends. He was familiar with such shooting stations as Long Point (Norfolk County), Weller's Bay, St. Clair Flats, and Conroy's Marsh (Halton County), in Ontario. His proficiency in identifying waterfowl and shorebirds was widely recognized and his interesting accounts of the ways of birds in general

appeared regularly for upwards of fifteen years in the *Toronto Globe*. He also contributed articles to *Rod and Gun* which are dependable records of observations. His only contribution to *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* concerned the nesting of the Lesser Scaup Duck at Toronto, (Vol. 44: 167, 1930).

Mr. Townson's memory for incidents and information concerning the Toronto region, covering a period of more than three score years, was most remarkable. As a member of the Brodie Club he formed a valuable link between the past and present in our rapidly changing environment. His passing, at the age of seventy-eight, takes from Toronto natural history circles a most useful life and an admirable individual who enjoyed the wide range of human activities from the sportive to the serious.—L.L.S.

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

WHITE TIPS OF *Napaeozapus* TAILS.—That the amount of white tip on the tail of *Napaeozapus* was far from constant was apparent to me from my first acquaintance with this species. Recently, while showing my collection to some friends, I laid a series of nine *Napaeozapus* on the table, arranged in order of the amount of white on the tips of their tails. Two distinct groups were apparent, one with only a small amount of white, the other with a considerably larger amount. The former group consisted entirely of females, the latter of males. When specimens from other collections were compared with mine, this grouping was broken up, but the data still show a slight sex differ-

entiation with respect to the extent of the white tip. Since the tip of the tail is so often torn in wiring, it is suggested that an additional measurement "White Tip of Tail" should be taken before skinning specimens of *Napaeozapus*.—C.H.D. CLARKE, *University of Toronto*.

UNUSUAL NESTING OF EASTERN REDWING (*Agelaius phoeniceus phoeniceus*) AT TORONTO.—Two unusually situated nests of the Eastern Redwing were found by the writer in the Humber marshes at Toronto on June 25, 1934. Both were in willows bordering the marsh, one eight feet up, the other eleven feet and they contained



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