

## BOOK REVIEWS

A FAUNAL INVESTIGATION OF LONG POINT AND VICINITY, NORFOLK COUNTY, ONTARIO, BY L. L. SNYDER. *Contribution No. 4, Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology. Reprinted from Trans. Royal Can. Inst. XVIII, 1931, Part I, pp. 117-236. Pl. 3, one Map.*

The main basis of this paper is two trips made to the locality by members of the staff of the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology, Toronto, May 25 to July 26, 1927, when attention was principally directed to Mammals and May 1 to June 1, 1928, when more general zoological collecting and study was followed. Notes from occasional observers and other available sources are included.

The report is divided into four parts:—I, General Introduction, giving description of area, Previous Work, Faunal Divisions, Acknowledgements and Bibliography; II, Mammals; III, Birds; and IV, Amphibians and Reptiles. The last by E. B. S. Logier.

Long Point, a little east of midway of the Ontario shore of Lake Erie is, faunally, a most interesting locality. A long, low point isolated from agricultural developments, with sand dunes, beaches, marsh, timber of various types and meadow, has great faunal possibilities. This report well rounds out the important series of intensive work that has been done about the shores of this great inland lake. In this way it is a completion of the investigations of Todd at Erie, Pa.; Jones at Cedar Point and the Lake Erie islands, Ohio; and Swales, Taverner, *et al*, at Point Pelee, Ontario.

Each of the formal faunal lists is extensively annotated as to details of occurrence and habits. That of the Mammals consists of twenty-five species still surviving on the point though documentary evidence is given of several other species that have occurred within the historical past. It is suggested that these latter might just as well have been entered in their systematic order in the main list, instead of being parenthetically discussed in an introduction where they can be so easily overlooked. The amphibians number six and the reptiles twelve.

It is interesting to observe that the same melanistic tendency so notable in the Garter snakes of Point Pelee appears again in the same species at Long Point. The question is whether the ranges are continuous or discontinuous, whether we can postulate a common or independent origins for the two abnormal strains.

A bird man naturally turns to the bird list consisting of some 133 species plus 22 hypothetical,

for evaluation and review. Here the reviewer would like to state as a personal opinion that the making of supplementary lists, hypothetical, introduced, extinct, or what-not is not the best possible make-up for a work that is largely for reference. In looking up data on any particular species the investigator is very likely, on not finding it in its logical place in the main list, to conclude that it is not dealt with and fail to search for a possible appendix in the back pages. The more readily an intermittent inquirer can extract isolated facts from such a list the better that list fulfills an important mission. Varying status of species can easily be indicated by style of type or some other similar convention and if deemed necessary can also be grouped in a few lines of names at the back.

In detail, the birds of Long Point are very similar to those of Point Pelee. The same southern or Carolinian Fauna influence is evident though perhaps not in so marked a degree. Not so many southern forms have made more or less permanent settlement and not so many southern erratics have been noted. Perhaps when as much work in as many different seasons has been done here as at Pelee, the latter statement will have to be altered. The position of Long Point is not quite so favourable as Point Pelee for intrusives from the south. Though it faces directly opposite, across the lake, a similar jumping-off point, Presque Isle, Pa., as Point Pelee faces Cedar Point and Marblehead, Ohio, it has not the convenient stepping-stone islands leading across the broad waters to entice wandering birds onward to its shores. In fact the only Canadian occurrence of the Long-tailed Shrew on Long Point suggests that it may get its southern life in roundabout via the Niagara Peninsula rather than across the lake itself. Long Point, in spite of the small amount of intensive work done there, has at least three birds to its credit that have not been detected at Pelee: Western Sandpiper, Acadian Flycatcher and Louisiana Water-thrush. It is interesting to note that the only two Canadian records for Bachman's Sparrow have been made respectively at Long Point and Point Pelee. On the whole, the paper is a decided addition to our knowledge of the fauna of southern Ontario and a credit to its authors and to the museum that sponsored it.—P.A.T.

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THE BIOLOGY OF THE AMPHIBIA. By G. Kingsley Noble, Curator of Herpetology and Experimental Biology, The American Museum of Natural History. McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc.



1931. 577 pages, frontispiece and 174 figures.

This book gives a comprehensive account of both the biology and the natural history of the Amphibia as a class of vertebrate animals. All the genera of Amphibia are diagnosed and the more familiar species of American salamanders figured. Although written primarily to introduce the student to the biology of frogs, toads and salamanders, the book avoids technicalities wherever possible and includes much which will interest the traveler and the field-naturalist.

Part I, dealing with structure and functions, covers pages 1 to 458, pages 459 to 543 are devoted to Part II, relationships and classification, and the remaining thirty-three pages contain an exhaustive index.

Part I is divided into nineteen chapters discussing on the origin of the Amphibia, development and heredity, mode of life history, speciation and adaptation, sex, the integument, respiratory

system, urogenital system, endocrine glands, sense organs, nervous system, instinct and intelligence, the ways of Amphibia, relation of Amphibia to their environment, and geographic distribution and economic value. Each chapter is followed by a list of references cited. The chapter of most popular interest is that entitled "The Ways of Amphibia" as it discusses migration, homing, voice, recognition of sex, parental instinct, feeding habits, responses to temperature changes, defense and leaping.

In Part II of this book the author deals with the relationships and classification of the some 1900 species of frogs, toads and salamanders and of the fossil remains of their ancestors.

Printed on strong paper securely bound, *The Biology of the Amphibia*, is worthy of a prominent place on the bookshelf of the naturalist and in the library of every institution pursuing the study of any phase of biology.—C.L.P.

### EXCURSIONS OF THE OTTAWA FIELD-NATURALISTS' CLUB, 1933

MAY 6—McKay Lake and vicinity. Take Lindenlea O.E.R. car and meet at Butternut Avenue and Maple Lane at 3 p.m. *Leaders*—Mr. HOYES LLOYD and others.

MAY 13—Ottawa River, Hintonburgh. Take Somerset O.E.R. car to Parkdale Avenue, walk to north end of Parkdale, and meet at riverside at 3 p.m. *Leaders*—Dr. HARRISON F. LEWIS and others.

MAY 20—Fairy Lake. Take Hull E.R. car at Chateau Laurier for Wrightville and meet at Wrightville terminus at 3 p.m. *Leaders*—C. E. JOHNSON, DR. RALPH DE LURY, MR. HOYES LLOYD and others.

MAY 27—Britannia. Take Britannia O.E.R. car and meet at terminus at 3 p.m. *Leaders*—DR. R. M. ANDERSON and others.

JUNE EXCURSIONS. Members unable to provide their own transportation on out of town trips should notify the leader or one of the conveners several days ahead of time; ample car space is usually available.

JUNE 3—Carlsbad Springs. Meet at Carlsbad Sanitarium, 12 noon. Bring lunch. *Leaders*—A. LA ROCQUE, C. E. JOHNSON and others.

JUNE 10—Dominion Experimental Farm. Take Carling Avenue bus to Farm entrance. Meet at Observatory 3 p.m. *Leaders*—W. H. LANCELEY and others.

JUNE 17—Details will be announced later.

JUNE 24—Aylmer and Mountain Road. Meet at Holt Hotel, Aylmer, 3 p.m. *Leader*—J. P. HENDERSON.

SUPPORT THE EXCURSIONS AND BRING YOUR FRIENDS

F. J. FRASER. Phone: Office Q. 2742, local 8.  
W. H. LANCELEY

*Conveners.*





Patch, Clyde L. 1933. "The Biology of the Amphibia, by Kingsley Noble [Review]." *The Canadian field-naturalist* 47(4), 77–78.

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