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ALBERT ANDREW WOOD

1885-1963

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AL WOOD was a naturalist of the old school — the school of W. E. Saunders and John Dearness. In these days of specialists, it was a privilege to know a man who was interested in so many aspects of nature study; one who could discuss them with such appreciation and intelligence.

A. A. Wood was born in London, Ontario, of pioneer stock, on May 2, 1885. Originally he had planned to be a doctor and in 1903 he took a pre-medical year at Washington College, Washington, D.C. But he found that he could not adapt himself to certain aspects of the course and entered the business of tailoring, after taking a course in New York City. For some sixteen years he pursued this work until 1922 when he was persuaded to join the staff of the Dominion Entomological Laboratory at Strathroy, Ontario. While there, Al began preparing entomological exhibits for local fairs. His natural aptitude for this work increased, and eventually he prepared exhibits for entomology laboratories across Canada and for the National Museum in Ottawa. He achieved his first great success in this line at the World's Grain Show, held in Regina in 1933. Al, in his dry way, enjoyed telling the story of the farmer who visited the exhibit several times on successive days. Finally the man asked why the wheat plants did not wilt in the hot atmosphere of the cage. Al always chuckled with pride when relating this; it was a tribute to the painstaking care he took when preparing the exhibit. In 1938 he was transferred to the Chatham laboratory and here he remained until he retired in 1955. He studied methods of preparation at many American and the larger Canadian museums and developed techniques for preparing displays of insect and disease injury in several media. Just before retirement he wrote a manual, "Preparing Insect Displays". This book shows the same careful work so characteristic of A. A. Wood. Besides the manual, Al published papers on a variety of topics, including ornithology, mammalogy, and entomology. He had a pleasant, lucid style of writing which was also informative.

Al was an ardent collector from boyhood, and received encouragement from men like J. A. Morden and W. E. Saunders, with whom he went on field trips. His bird and mammal skins are found in scientific study collections in many museums, both in Canada and the United States. The great Canadian bird artist, Allan Brooks, claimed that Al's study skins were among the best he had seen. Al often told about rising before dawn to go on a trip before his

day's work. He would describe the dawn chorus and the thrill of hearing a new song for the first time. That was how he located Kentucky and Blue-winged warblers — the first being the third Canadian record for the species at that time. He also had a very fine insect collection which was one reason he joined the Dominion service. Later he made a collection of flowering plants native to his area. It was characteristic of him to turn to a new hobby after retirement — the collection of lichens and mosses, where he found new Canadian species. To top it off, in later years he became an ardent star watcher, just as the space age began! Also, after retirement, he spent several summers as naturalist at a camp for young people conducted by the Seventh Day Adventists, to which group Al was a sincere and devoted member.

In 1925 Al married Gertrude Isobel Wilson of London, Ontario. Three daughters were born to them and a more devoted family group it would be hard to find.



THE BREEDING BIRDS OF MANDARTE ISLAND, BRITISH COLUMBIA*

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INTRODUCTION

EVERY YEAR SOME 5500 INDIVIDUALS of six sea-bird species gather on Mandarte Island to breed, thus making it the largest and most varied colony on the inner south coast of British Columbia. Certain plants and the sea-fowl formed an important resource for the native people in bygone times, and Mandarte is still an Indian Reserve. At present, however, infrequent egg-collecting is the only right exercised by the owners.

In 1957 a permanent field camp was established on the island by the Department of Zoology, University of British Columbia (Vancouver), and students have lived there every season since (May 3-September 4, 1957; May 1-August 24, 1958; April 24-September 15, 1959; May 5-September 1, 1960; May 1-August 30, 1961; May 2-August 31, 1962). Goal of the work was to present theses on the following topics:

G. F. van Tets	1957-1959	Cormorant ethology
R. Drent	1959-1960	Pigeon Guillemot breeding biology
F. Tompa	1960-1962	Song Sparrow population study
K. Vermeer	1961-1962	Glaucous-winged Gull breeding biology.

Each season as much time as possible was devoted to gathering nesting data, the material being recorded on cards of the British Columbia Nest Records

*Contribution No. 4 from the B.C. Nest Records Scheme, Department of Zoology, University of British Columbia, Vancouver 8, British Columbia.



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