

Association Affairs

Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club, a new affiliate of the AAAS, was formed in 1879. Circular letters had been addressed to members of the former Ottawa Literary and Scientific Society calling for a meeting of those in favor of the formation of a society devoted to the investigation of the natural history of the vicinity of Ottawa. To the great satisfaction of its movers, fully 40 attended the first meeting, and after lengthy discussion the club was organized under its first president, Lt. Col. William White. The first volume of the club's transactions appeared in 1880. This makes the club one of the oldest natural history societies, and its organ one of the oldest continuous scientific journals, in the country. (The Canadian Institute, of Toronto, was formed in 1849 and the Nova Scotian Institute of Science, in 1863, while the first volume of *Le Naturaliste Canadien*, of Quebec, appeared in 1868.)

The objectives of the club originally included investigation of the natural history of the area and publication of the original research of its members, or the natural history of the Ottawa Valley. Since many of the club members were scientists employed by federal government agencies, this meant that much of the research published covered results of field studies conducted by those men while on expeditions to the far reaches of the new nation. This fact ultimately led to a broadening in the scope of the club, although its name has not been changed. The present aims of the club, as outlined in article 2 of the amended constitution (1944), are "to foster an acquaintance with and love of nature; to encourage investigation and to publish results of original research and observations in all fields of natural history."

The scope of the club's interests, as indicated by its lectures and publica-

tions, has been indeed broad and includes the fields of geology, paleontology, botany, zoology, archeology, and ethnology. The list of the club's presidents is a roster of many of the leaders in Canadian natural science and includes such names as James Fletcher, George M. Dawson, John Macoun, E. E. Prince, C. Gordon Hewitt, M. Y. Williams, R. M. Anderson, C. M. Sternberg, Hoyes Lloyd, E. M. Kindle, Harrison F. Lewis, M. E. Wilson, P. A. Taverner, A. E. Porsild, Douglas Leechman, and Loris S. Russell.

From the club's very beginning the publication of a scientific journal was an important part of the program. This emphasis probably accounts for the continuity of publication for over 80 years. The scope of the journal has changed over the years, with the broadening interests of the club, to include the whole of Canada. The content has reflected the changing points of interest in the disciplines covered. In line with the name of the club, the papers published are generally the results of studies conducted in nature's own laboratory. The results of "bench studies" are seldom published, since other journals regularly provide publication media for such laboratory investigations. The title of the club's publication has undergone the following changes over the years: *Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club, transactions* (1880-1887), volumes 1 and 2; *The Ottawa Naturalist* (1887-1919), volumes 1 through 32; and *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* (1919-1962), volumes 33 through 76. The number of parts per volume has varied from 12 in the beginning to the current four since 1953.

At present there are about 750 subscribers; of these about 200 are institutions and libraries and about 200 are local Ottawa members. At least 29 club members are also fellows of the AAAS.

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club is affiliated with eight other natural his-

tory societies across Canada, and with the Federation of Ontario Naturalists on a provincial basis.

On a local basis the club sponsors a public lecture series, local field excursions, early-morning bird walks in May, and a winter work-shop program in natural history, and it cosponsors (with the National Museum of Canada) a junior natural history club for children between the ages of 9 and 16—the Macoun Club (named in honor of John Macoun, one of the club's illustrious founders).

The club's officers include an executive and members of the council, who usually hold office for 2 years; two auditors; and an appointed editor and business manager. The officers for 1962 are as follows: president, Donald R. Beckett (Royal Canadian Air Force); first vice-president, W. Winston Mair (chief, Canadian Wildlife Service); second vice-president, D. A. Smith (Carleton University); treasurer, Anne Banning (Department of National Defense); secretary, A. W. F. Banfield (National Museum of Canada); editor, *Canadian Field-Naturalist*, Francis R. Cook (National Museum of Canada); business manager, W. J. Cody (Plant Research Institute, Canada Department of Agriculture); and AAAS representative, D. B. O. Savile (Plant Research Institute, Canada Department of Agriculture).

The club executives and members look forward to a fruitful affiliation with the AAAS in continuing toward our mutual goals in the cause of science in North America.

A. W. F. BANFIELD
*Zoology Section, National Museum
of Canada, Ottawa*

Society of Plastics Engineers

The Society of Plastics Engineers, Inc., a new affiliate of the AAAS, is an international scientific and educational organization of more than 9500 individual members in the United States, Canada, and some 32 other countries throughout the world. The primary objective of the society is to promote scientific and engineering knowledge related to plastics, and to develop and disseminate such knowledge as it relates to plastic materials (their structure and properties), plastics products (their fabrications and applications), and the machinery and equipment utilized in

Science

Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

A. W. F. Banfield

Science **136** (3515), 546.
DOI: 10.1126/science.136.3515.546

ARTICLE TOOLS <http://science.sciencemag.org/content/136/3515/546.1.citation>

PERMISSIONS <http://www.sciencemag.org/help/reprints-and-permissions>

Use of this article is subject to the [Terms of Service](#)

Science (print ISSN 0036-8075; online ISSN 1095-9203) is published by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1200 New York Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20005. 2017 © The Authors, some rights reserved; exclusive licensee American Association for the Advancement of Science. No claim to original U.S. Government Works. The title *Science* is a registered trademark of AAAS.