

Devon island, Baffin island, and possibly other islands in the Canadian Arctic archipelago. He is collecting plants at all points visited, making a study of certain plants *in situ*, and filling gaps in certain groups of the large collections of plants in the Herbarium from various points in the Canadian Arctic. This work is in preparation for a comprehensive flora of Arctic Canada, including the results of all Canadian and many foreign expeditions, in collaboration with Professor C. H. Ostenfeld, of Copenhagen, the well-known authority on northern floras.

R. M. ANDERSON is engaged in local field work as opportunity offers, and later in the season will make collections in parts of the Prairie Provinces, paying particular attention to areas which have few mammal specimens represented in the National collection. The collected specimens and published data on Canadian mammals are scattered, and Dr. Anderson is endeavouring to assemble data for a "Check-list of Canadian Mammals", bringing the nomenclature and range of species up to date as far as possible.

C. L. PATCH, C. E. JOHNSON, D. BLAKELY and JOS. ROCHON are collecting in Ottawa district, principally to fill gaps in the exhibit series of mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians and

collecting accessories for use in the habitat groups which are being prepared. Mr. Patch is collecting specimens and information for a check-list of Canadian reptiles and amphibians, and Mr. Johnson is preparing coloured drawings and sketches for the illustration of this work.

GEOLOGY

Specimens of rocks, ores, minerals and fossils are collected each year by parties of the Geological Survey for the Museum. Forty-eight Survey parties are distributed throughout Canada, from Yukon and Baffin island to Cape Breton, during the season of 1927.

MINERALOGY

A. T. MACKINNON is collecting quantities of minerals from various places in Ontario and Quebec. These supplies are used mainly for the preparation of educational collections which are distributed to Collegiate Institutes, High and Public schools and other educational institutions in Canada and other countries, and also to prospectors and mining institutions.

PALÆONTOLOGY

Palæontological collections are being made by many of the Geological Survey parties.

IN MEMORIAM—CHARLES W. NASH

BORN AUGUST 15, 1848.

DIED FEBRUARY 13, 1926.



CHARLES W. NASH, Biologist of the Provincial Museum, St. James Square, Toronto, for the past twenty-three years, died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. H. S. Sweatman, 250 Heath Street West, on February 13, 1926. He is survived by two daughters, Mrs. H. S. Sweatman and Mrs. L. Lacey, as well as by grand-children. The funeral service and interment took place at Niagara-on-the-Lake, on Monday, February 15th.

Mr. Nash was born at Bognor, Sussex, England, on August 15, 1848, and received his education at Shoreham Grammar School. On February 13, 1877, he was married to Harriet Burns Campbell, daughter of His Honour E. C. Campbell, first judge of the united Counties of Lincoln, Welland and Haldimand, and late County Judge of Simcoe. Mrs. Nash predeceased him by a few years.

He came to Canada in 1869 when he would be twenty-one years of age, and here his earlier love

of nature could find an outlet in a country where there was rare opportunity for the development of a sportsman and naturalist. Very shortly after his arrival in Canada he began lecturing on the subject of birds in relation to agriculture, and he took an early step in conservation by becoming a founder of a game and fish protective association at Hamilton, Ontario, about 1873. I think he has told me that he was the first Secretary-Treasurer of this Society, and it was founded at a time when game was abundant and when only a far-sighted man could foresee the great coming need for game protection.

Mr. Nash brought to Canada high ideals of sportsmanship and never missed an opportunity of teaching these in a country where the abundance of game and the pioneer conditions prevailing must have made them appear rather out of place.

He loved the frontier, and in the eighties went to Portage la Prairie and continued his natural

history observations while practising law in that community. Many of these are included in Seton's *Birds of Manitoba* which, although published many years ago now, is still the outstanding ornithological work on the birds of the province. In 1887 he returned to Ontario and devoted himself exclusively to the study of biology.

In connection with sportsmanship, Mr. Nash was a lover and a breeder of good gun dogs. He kept the same hunting stock generation after generation, and these were of mixed Sussex and Norfolk Spaniel blood. It was always his argument that these large Spaniels were the best all-around hunting dogs for our country, and the tremendous popularity of the Springer Spaniel, as the Norfolk is now called, in recent years shows how truly his insight into sport with the gun guided him in this particular. About 1899 he became lecturer on biology for the Farmers' Institute Bureau of the Ontario Department of Agriculture and in this capacity lectured for years, at the rate of 100 lectures per annum, to farmers, on such subjects as birds in relation to agriculture. In this capacity and later as Biologist of the Provincial Museum, he published extensively works which have done much to advance the knowledge of wild life, and to advance the protection of wild life in Canada. He always took a keen interest in exhibitions of natural history work and for many years acted as judge in the natural history exhibits of the Canadian National Exhibition at Toronto.

I well remember the first occasion on which I met Mr. Nash. It was a fine April morning and with another boy I was hunting for birds near the Kingston road, just about where the residence of Sir Donald Mann stands now. We had secured a Warbler as a specimen and did not know the species. Mr. Nash, accompanied by his spaniels, happened along the road and meeting us, he at once identified the bird as a Pine Warbler, the first we had ever seen. This contact continued through many years and although we were separated by difference in age, this made no barrier in the case of Mr. Nash. On one occasion we planned and completed a short expedition to Point Pelee to study the bird migration. Mr. Nash was not a young man then, but his good sportsmanship and ability to meet cheerfully all sorts of circumstances made him a charming companion and a very instructive one. A keen sense of humour always pervaded our discussions and while some persons might have taken his expressions of opinion as somewhat outspoken and even blunt, he had a friendly heart to his fellowman as he did to the wild creatures. Many scores of times I have called on him and it must have been rather

upsetting to his work to have been so popular with youthful visitors, but I was always courteously received and welcomed. Located as he was in the Normal School Building, his instruction was available for hundreds of teachers who scattered from this school to all parts of the Province and certainly many of them took with them when they left Toronto, some insight into wild life and its protection.

Mr. Nash worked unceasingly in perfecting the collections of the Museum, and extended his efforts over a wide range of subjects. He was an old-fashioned naturalist, and at home in many fields. He was particularly interested of late years in completing coloured casts of the fishes, batrachians and reptiles of Ontario, but in addition to this work in ichthyology and herpetology, he studied in the fields of entomology, mammalogy and ornithology.

The following outline of his activities in Ichthyology has been furnished by Professor J. R. Dymond:

"Mr. Nash's breadth of interest in natural history is perhaps best shown by what he did in connection with the fish of the province. Most naturalists take comparatively little interest in fish, but Mr. Nash knew them as well as he did birds, mammals, insects, etc. In fact, he probably contributed more than any other one individual to our present knowledge of the fish fauna of the province. Not only was he interested in fishes, from the systematic and distributional point of view, but he was concerned with their conservation from both the economic and recreational point of view. His advice on matters of angling and fisheries regulations was sought by provincial officers in charge of these matters. About 1895 he was a member of a commission appointed by the Provincial Government to inquire into the question of the sale of bass and maskinonge. The report of this commission was never published, but acting on their recommendation the sale of these fish was prohibited. In discussing this question Mr. Nash has been heard to remark that in 1877 bass sold at 3¢ per pound and in 1885 at 40¢. He championed the poor man's rights in matters of this kind. He deplored the destruction of the angling in Toronto Bay and waters near Toronto, even though the fishes to be taken here were not as high-class game fish as those taken in more remote regions, but these nearby fish were all the poor man could afford to angle for, and Mr. Nash considered their interests perhaps before those of the trout and bass fishermen."

Mr. Nash was a member of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club—the first number of the *Ottawa Naturalist* I ever saw was on his desk—and a member and for some years a director of the Entomological Society of Ontario.

The effect of his educational work was to lay a foundation in wild life protection in Ontario on which we are building to-day, and which has proved invaluable as further wild life protection becomes

necessary with the increase in the settlement of our Province. He was a great naturalist of an old-time school that has practically disappeared in modern-day specialization, a conservationist of note, and an educationalist, who reached and touched the grown-ups as well as the youth of our Province, and whose influence extended beyond its boundaries. Ontario, particularly, owes him a debt for his work along these lines, and yet to some of us he meant more than a naturalist, for he was a warm-hearted and true friend—HOYES LLOYD (*with the kind assistance of The Toronto Field-Naturalists' Club*).

Notes on the bibliography of the late Charles William Nash. By J. H. Fleming:—

"Although the field notes and scientific data gathered by Mr. Nash are now in the library of the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology, Toronto, it has been found impossible to bring together a complete bibliography. The collection consists of a series of scrap-books each with a special heading containing notes and references in pencil together with articles cut from publications, often without definite indication of authorship. The official publications are as follows and the list is believed to be complete:

"*The Birds of Ontario in Relation to Agriculture*, published by the Department of Agriculture Toronto, 1898 (Reprinted from the Report of the Farmer's Institutes of Ontario, 1897-8). This is a pamphlet of thirty-two pages and thirty-two full page plates of birds from drawings by the author. A second edition was published in 1901 with some slight changes, a third edition, published in 1904 is unaltered from the second. Largely rewritten, a fourth edition appeared in 1909 as Bulletin 173, Ontario Department of Agriculture, followed by a fifth edition in 1913, revised as Bulletin 218.

"*Check List of the Birds of Ontario and Catalogue of the Birds in the Biological Section of the Museum*, Department of Education, Toronto, 1900. This is a pamphlet of fifty-eight pages containing an annotated list of 304 species and subspecies of birds.

"*Check List of the Vertebrates of Ontario and Catalogue of Specimens in the Biological Section of the Provincial Museum; Birds*, Department of Education, Toronto, 1905. This is a pamphlet of eighty-two pages, more fully annotated and with illustrations in the text by the author, it lists 324 species and subspecies of birds.

"*Check List of the Vertebrates of Ontario and Catalogue of Specimens in the Biological Section of the Provincial Museum; Batrachians, Reptiles, Mammals*, Department of Education, Toronto, 1905.

"*Check List of the Vertebrates of Ontario and Catalogue of Specimens in the Biological Section of the Provincial Museum; Fishes*, Department of Education, Toronto, 1908, with thirty-two full page plates by the author.

VERTEBRATES OF ONTARIO, *Department of Education, Toronto, 1908*. This consists of the last three titles bound together with new title page glossary and index.

A series of articles in *Farming World* beginning June 15th, 1904, and ending January 15th, 1908, show the versatility of the author in matters of benefit to the farm.

Nature about the farm, farm forestry and tree planting, planting for fence posts, farm wind-breaks, grazing the woodlot, the relation between forestry and water power; are a few of the subjects written about.

There are articles scattered in various publications, one at least in *Forest and Stream*, Vol. 38, 1892, page 77, *Shore Birds Near Toronto*, one in *Report of Bureau of Forestry of the Province of Ontario, 1903, on Farm Forestry*. There are two contributions to the *Auk Bird Notes* from Toronto, Canada, 1896, page 347. *Nelson's Sparrow* at Toronto, Ontario, 1899, page 277. The list of articles is unfortunately incomplete and in addition Mr. Nash contributed manuscript lists to the Committee on bird protection of the American Ornithologists Union beginning with observations on the birds of Portage la Prairie and vicinity, 1884-5, and followed with regular yearly reports to the Biological Survey at Washington on the birds observed at Todmorden, Ontario (a suburb of Toronto) and later from Toronto."

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

A NOTE CONCERNING FUR FARMING.—Fur farming in Canada is a comparatively new line of business and much concerning it has yet to be learned. The industry presents many attractive possibilities and on that account it is apt to attract many to it, as a means of making an easy livelihood without their having the experience necessary to success. As a matter of fact, there are a number of pitfalls to be avoided among which must be reckoned the danger of introducing diseases and the weakening of our northern stock by bringing in less hardy animals. A recent letter from a correspondent whose name I have been

requested to withhold, puts the matter very clearly and it is, therefore, quoted at length:—

"A number of people throughout Canada are interested in stocking marsh areas with muskrats. It is very desirable for many reasons to use the local native stock for this purpose, rather than to bring in breeding stock from a distance which is thought at the time to have some advantage or other.

"Animals like the muskrat exist as different varieties in each part of their range and these local varieties or subspecies are almost certainly better adapted to meet local conditions than an outside strain would be.

"It may be that extra dark rats are in demand



Lloyd, Hoyes. 1927. "In Memoriam — Charles W. Nash." *The Canadian field-naturalist* 41(6), 135–137. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.338823>.

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