

MISSISSIPPI ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Organized April 30, 1955

MRS. BUFORD F. FLOYD
Vice President
4818 Kendall Ave.
Gulfport, Miss.

JOHN M. FRAZIER, President
Station A., Hattiesburg, Miss.

MRS. WM. G. WILLS, JR.
Treasurer
828 North Congress St.
Jackson, Miss.

MRS. MAYO TOLMAN
Secretary
Route 1
Picayune, Miss.

WM. H. TURCOTTE
Editor
Route 2, Box 100
Jackson, Miss.

August 2, 1957

MOS NEWSLETTER - Vol. 2, No. 2

Compiled by: W. H. Turcotte

Columbus Meeting: The MOS Annual Meeting was held in Hooper Hall, MSCW campus, Columbus, Mississippi, on April 26 in conjunction with the Mississippi Academy of Science Meeting. The program consisted of several papers by members and a showing of "PINEY WOODS TOM", a movie on the wild turkey produced in Mississippi by the Game and Fish Commission. Titles of papers presented were: "Pearl River as a Bird Migration Route" by Fannye A. Cook, "Advantages Offered by the Natchez Trace Parkway to Bird Students" by Francis Elmore and "Observations Made by Jackson Members of the MOS" by Mrs. Wm. G. Wills, Jr.

Tishomingo County Trip: After the Columbus Meeting, Miss Cook, Mrs. Wills, Mr. and Mrs. Elmore and Bill Turcotte made a field trip to Tishomingo County and Tishomingo State Park. Whippoorwills and Chuck-will's-widows were heard calling in Tishomingo State Park shortly after dark and again later at night. Saturday morning, April 27, on a field trip through the park we found the ovenbird and phoebe, both summer residents. A pair of sycamore warblers was seen building a nest on a horizontal limb of a pine near the swinging bridge in the park. From the park we made a trip north of Highway 25 to the Yellow Creek bridge where we found a colony of cliff swallows nesting and nest-building under the concrete bridge. Also, about a dozen pairs of barn swallows nesting. On Highway 25 under Poplar Springs Branch bridge, we found a phoebe nest with young, also several active cliff swallow nests. Continuing on we visited Pickwick Lake at several points and returned to the park. Mr. and Mrs. Ben Coffey, Jr. joined us there Saturday evening. On Sunday morning of the 28th, we had another enjoyable field trip in the park where we discovered another phoebe nest (5 eggs) on a rock beside a small running creek and a blue-gray gnatcatcher nest. Our list for Tishomingo County totaled 87 species as follows for April 26 - 28: Green heron, blue winged teal, turkey vulture, bl. vulture, red-sh. hawk, broad-wing hawk, bobwhite, killdeer, spotted sandpiper, mourning dove, yellow billed cuckoo, barred owl, chuck-will's-widow, whip-poorwill, chimney swift, kingfisher, pileated woodpecker, red-bellied-woodpecker, hairy woodpecker, downy woodpecker, kingbird, crested flycatcher, phoebe, Acadian flycatcher, wood pewee, roughwinged swallow, purple martin, barn swallow, cliff swallow, blue jay, crow, chickadee, tufted titmouse, white-breasted nuthatch, Carolina wren, mockingbird, catbird, brown thrasher, robin, wood thrush, veery, bluebird, blue-gray gnatcatcher, cedar waxwing, shrike, starling, white-eyed vireo, yellow-throated vireo, red-eyed vireo, black and white warbler, prothonotary warbler, golden winged warbler, Tennessee warbler, parula warbler, myrtle warbler, black-th. green warbler, Maryland yellow-throat, sycamore warbler.

pine warbler, prairie warbler, ovenbird, Louisiana water thrush, Kentucky warbler, yellow-breasted chat, hooded warbler, Canada warbler, English sparrow, meadowlark, red-winged blackbird, orchard oriole, purple grackle, cowbird, summer tanager, cardinal, scarlet tanager, blue grosbeak, indigo bunting, goldfinch, towhee, lark sparrow, pinewoods sparrow, chipping sparrow, field sparrow, white-throated sparrow. The Coffeys added bobolinks and the Swainson warbler.

Jackson Members Active: Jackson members arranged Saturday morning field trips to observe spring migrants. These trips were each planned and conducted by individual members. The first outing on April 13 was to Legion Lake and vicinity in Rankin County. Migrants recorded were: Solitary sandpiper, veery, blue-gray gnatcatcher, ruby cr. kinglet, white-eyed vireo, yellow-throated vireo, red-eyed vireo, bl. and white warbler, myrtle warbler, blackburnian warbler (1), sycamore warbler, prairie warbler, scarlet tanager and goldfinch. Weather was rather cold and windy on this trip. On April 20th, MOS members made another bird trip up the Natchez Trace conducted by John Phares. Our list recorded besides permanent residents: br. winged hawk, solitary sandpiper, chuck-wills-widow and night hawk (1st arrival dates for these two), chimney swift, hummingbird, kingbird, crested flycatcher, Acadian flycatcher, wood pewee, rough winged swallow, purple martin, wood thrush, veery, blue-gray gnatcatcher, cedar waxwing, white-eyed vireo, red-eyed vireo, bl. and wh. warbler, prothonotary warbler, swainson's warbler, parula warbler, yellow warbler, myrtle warbler, Maryland yellowthroat, sycamore warbler, prairie warbler, Louisiana waterthrush, Kentucky warbler, yellow-breasted chat, hooded warbler, redstart, O. oriole, B. oriole, summer tanager, rose-breasted grosbeak, blue grosbeak, indigo bunting and goldfinch. On May 4th, the Jackson group made another enjoyable outing starting from Livingston Park and going west to Bolton. We observed painted buntings, bobolinks and dickcissels (near Bolton). On a small pond we checked all of the migrating swallows: the tree, bank, rough-winged, barn and cliff, this being the highlight of the trip seeing all of the swallows at one place. Indigo buntings and orchard orioles were seen in large numbers around a field of oats and vetch.

Correction: The editor in the last issue of the newsletter reported observing western grebes in the Gulfport Small Craft Harbor on February 24th. This observation was reported erroneously. After consulting a guide book, the birds observed were identified as horned grebes.

Man - O' - War-bird or Frigatebird: While fishing in Dump Lake, near Satartia in Yazoo County on Saturday, June 29, 1957, two days after the hurricane, "Audrey", R. E. Rester and Ed Hollingsworth of Jackson sighted a Man-O'-War-bird over their heads. It repeatedly dived toward them as if to attack. Mr. Rester threw out over the water, his lure with an 8500 yellow paw paw plug, and the bird immediately seized it. With some effort he pulled the bird in with one hook through its throat and one in the shoulder, then killed it with his boat paddle.

Mr. Rester's description of the bird in flight and in action, as well as the detailed description of its features, indicated that it was a Man-O'-War-bird. Upon seeing the mounted specimen and pictures in the museum, he was thoroughly convinced that it was a Man-O' War-bird that he encountered.

J. W. Tucker and Andrew Allison Honored at Jackson Meeting: The Mississippi Ornithological Society meeting held in Jackson, July 13, honoring Mr. Andrew Allison and Mr. J. W. Tucker, recently elected Honorary Members, was attended by about 50 interested bird lovers. Presiding the program, 23 members and their guests enjoyed a fellowship dinner at which the new officers were introduced by the out-going President, Miss Fannye A. Cook. Mr. John Frazier, President, introduced Mr. J. W. Tucker and Mrs. Tucker, honor guests. Messages from Mr. and Mrs. Allison were read, expressing appreciation of the honors shown Mr. Allison, and stating their regrets at not being able to be present.

At the meeting following the dinner, Mr. Frazier spoke briefly of the Society's objectives and its activities. He offered suggestions for encouraging the establishment of bird sanctuaries, especially in towns, as an additional activity for this year. He then paid high tribute to Mr. Allison and reviewed his early work on birds in Mississippi and Louisiana and his more recent work on Chinese birds. The Secretary was instructed to mail the Honorary Membership Certificate to Mr. Allison.

In awarding the Certificate to Mr. Tucker, Mr. Frazier expressed appreciation on the part of the Society for the fine contribution which the honoree had made through the years to Conservation efforts and bird protection. The J. W. Tucker Trophy, given for the most outstanding work done by an MOS member during the year, was awarded to Mrs. W. G. Wills, Jr., of Jackson.

Mr. Ben Coffey of Memphis gave an informative talk on his bird-banding operations and reported his latest findings on the migration of Chimney Swifts.

Mrs. Coffey's delightful account of bird studies in Mexico was illustrated by beautiful colored slides, most of which were from pictures taken by her and Mr. Coffey on their tours through Mexico.

Motion pictures in color, which were made on MOS field trips, of nesting birds on the Mississippi Gulf Coast and outlying islands, were shown by W. H. Turcotte of Jackson. These pictures featured nests, eggs and young of laughing gulls, several species of terns, skimmers, brown pelicans and sandhill cranes.

Coast Trip to Free Magon Island: On June 1st another pleasant boat trip to the Chandeleur Islands was made by a party of MOS members. We left Biloxi in the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory boat early Saturday morning and arrived on Free Mason Island before noon. We landed on the island by skiff and found numbers of laughing gulls nesting on the ground among the bushes and prickly pear cactus. All the nests contained eggs. We found only two pairs of royal terns nesting, the single eggs deposited on a shell bar. There were also a few pairs of nesting black skimmers (with eggs) and a small nesting colony of least terns. The trip was pleasant but a little disappointing in that time permitted us only one stop on the island. The pelican rookery on North Island appeared from the distance to be very active with nesting pelicans. On our return trip we saw two phalaropes swimming in the open water far from land off Free Mason Island. Species identification was not positive but they appeared to be the red phalarope

Swallow Tailed Kites on Leaf River: Evidence of the Swallow-tailed kite (Elanoides forficatus forficatus) being found in Mississippi in greater numbers than in previous years was borne out by observations made in early May by Locke Bethea and Rolland B. Handley, biologists with the State Game and Fish Commission. While making a routine stream census of wood ducks broods (Aix sponsa), the biologists observed five of the kites along a thirty mile stretch of the Leaf River. This section of the river is located in Perry and Greene Counties in southeastern Mississippi. Most of the kites were observed directly east of the town of McLain.

The kites under observation appeared to pay the biologists in the boat little heed and two flew close enough to the boat to make identification easy. One kite was under observation for a total period of ten minutes as it glided down the shore line adjacent to the boat. The bird by its actions appeared to be feeding on insects or very small birds found in the top branches of sand bar willows that stretched along the sloping river shore line. The kite was observed swooping into the tops of the willows, catching some object in its talons and then transferring the object to its beak as it completed the dive up and away from the willows. Seconds later, the bird would expel refuse from its mouth that had all appearances of being feathers of a small bird or undersirable parts of a very large insect.

None of the kites observed appeared to be under any stress or excitement and all appeared to be inhabitants of the general vicinity.

- Rolland B. Handley -

New Officers: Please note the newly elected officers of the MOS appearing on the first page of the Newsletter.

Dues Now Payable: Membership dues for 1957 are now payable (\$2.00). If your dues are due, please mail to Mrs. Wm. G. Wills, Treasurer, 828 N. Congress Street., Jackson, Mississippi. A current MOS membership list is attached. New members indicated by an asterisk (*) have joined the MOS since the last list was mailed out. Welcome to the New Comers! We are looking forward to having you along on our next get-together.

MEMBERSHIP

MISSISSIPPI ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
(as of July 1957)

1. Mr. Otis Allen, Supt. of Education, Leflore County, Greenwood, Miss.
- ** 2. Mr. Andrew Allison, Ellisville, Mississippi.
3. Miss Lois Almon, Box 235, State College, Miss.
- * 4. Mrs. Edward L. Bailey, Old Canton Road, Jackson, Miss.
5. Miss Rena Breckenridge, 2408 - 9th St., Meridian, Miss.
- * 6. Mr. Robert M. Callaway, 391 Northside Circle, Jackson, Miss.
7. Miss Ruth Castles, Forest Hills Apt., Hillsboro Road, Nashville 12, Tenn.
8. Dr. R. L. Caylor, Delta State Teachers College, Cleveland, Miss.
9. Mr. Ben B. Coffey, Jr., 672 North Belvedere, Memphis 7, Tenn.
10. Mrs. Ben B. Coffey, Jr., 672 North Belvedere, Memphis 7, Tenn.
11. Miss Fannye A. Cook, 827 North State Street, Jackson, Miss.
12. Miss Vivian Cook, Crystal Springs, Miss.
13. Mrs. Blanche Dean, 1503 Ridgeroad, Homewood, Birmingham 9, Ala.
- *14. Mrs. M. L. Dinwiddie, 623 East Beach, Pass Christian, Miss.
15. Mrs. Alton Ellick, Old Canton Road, Jackson, Miss.
16. Mr. Francis Elmore, Naturalist, Natchez Trace Parkway, Tupelo, Miss.
- *17. Mrs. Francis Elmore, Tupelo, Miss.
18. Dr. Clytee Evans, M.S.C.W., Columbus, Miss.
19. Mr. Allan Feducia, Memorial Drive, Cleveland, Miss.
20. Mrs. Rose Fleming, 462 Stillwood Drive, Jackson, Miss.
21. Dr. Buford F. Floyd, 4818 Kendall Ave., Gulfport, Miss.
22. Mrs. Buford F. Floyd, 4818 Kendall Ave., Gulfport, Miss.
23. Mr. John M. Frazier, Miss. Southern College, Sta. A., Hattiesburg, Miss.
24. Mr. Albert Ganier, 2112 Woodlawn Drive, Nashville 12, Tenn.
25. Mr. Newton F. Hanson, Bruce, Miss.
26. Mrs. Dorothy R. Harper, 4203 W. Capitol St., Jackson, Miss.
27. Miss Mary E. Hobson, Northeast Jr. College, Booneville, Miss.
- * 28. Dr. H. J. Jacobs, Delta State Teachers College, Cleveland, Miss.
- * 29. Mrs. Jeff Lambdin, "Mistletoe", Pine Ridge Community, Natchez, Miss.
30. Mrs. Amelia Laskey, 1521 Graybar Lane, Nashville 12, Tenn.
31. Mr. Fred Moreton, 120 Gill Avenue, Biloxi, Miss.
32. Mrs. Fred Moreton, 120 Gill Avenue, Biloxi, Miss.
33. Miss Jane Northrop, 275 West 2nd St., Pass Christian, Miss.
34. Mr. John H. Phares, 4539 Meadowridge Drive, Jackson, Miss.
35. Mrs. James K. Polk, Macon Plantation, Inverness, Miss.
36. Mrs. W. H. Pullen, Jr., 819 Pinehurst, Jackson, Miss.
37. Dr. Doris Raymond, Box 75, University, Miss.
38. Miss Jennie Riggs, 3313 Fairmont Drive, Nashville, Tenn.
39. Mr. T. M. Salisbury, 1815 St. Ann St., Jackson, Miss.
40. Miss George Sehon, M.S.C.W., Columbus, Miss.
41. Dr. Hurst Shoemaker, Gulf Coast Research Lab., Ocean Springs, Miss.
42. Mrs. George R. Smith, 1102 West Palm Beach, Pass Christian, Miss.
- * 43. Mr. John B. Sneed, Handsboro, Miss.
- ** 44. Mrs. John B. Sneed, Handsboro, Miss.
45. Mr. Homer L. Tackett, 338 Segura, Jackson, Miss.
- * 46. Dr. Clifford Tillman, Natchez, Miss.
47. Mr. Mayo Tolman, Route 1, Picayune, Miss.
48. Mrs. Mayo Tolman, Route 1, Picayune, Miss.
- ** 49. Mr. J. W. Tucker, 920 N. Jefferson, Jackson, Miss.
50. Mr. W. H. Turcotte, Route 2, Box 100, Jackson, Miss.
51. Mr. Billy Smith-Vanez, 902 South Court St., Cleveland, Miss.
52. Mrs. G. Frederick Voght, 1240 Rose Hill Circle, Jackson, Miss.
53. Miss Carol Webb, Wood Jr. College, Mathiston, Miss.
54. Mrs. W. G. Wills, Jr., 828 N. Congress St., Jackson, Miss.
55. Mrs. Cleo Yancey, Hickory Flat, Miss.

* New Members

** Honorary Members