MISSISSIPPI ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Organized April 30, 1955

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JOHN H. PHARES President 4539 Meadowridge Drive Jackson, Mississippi

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July 17, 1959

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FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING

The fourth annual meeting of MOS was held Friday afternoon, April 24, 1959, at Nelson Hall, Mississippi College, Clinton, Miss. in conjunction with the meeting of the Mississippi Academy of Sciences, Mrs. Bedford Floyd, President, presiding. Reports of the Secretary and the Treasurer were read and accepted.

A discussion of city bird sanctuaries followed; B. E. Gandy was appointed chairman of a committee to study the matter, prepare an outline for a sanctuary program and contact city officials to ascertain if the program contains all necessary information of steps to be followed in setting aside a city as a bird sanctuary.

The question of kinds of memberships was discussed and it was recommended that the matter be studied for presentation to members later.

It was voted that \$250.00 from our treasury be placed at interest. Miss Fannye A. Cook suggested that our society sponsor some special study by a young person who will present a report at our annual meeting. Miss Cook was appointed chairman of a committee (she to choose the other members) to present a definite plan on this at our next annual meeting.

Report of the Nominating Committee: W. H. Turcotte, B. E. Gandy,

Miss Fannye Cook -

Officers for 1959-60:

President: John H. Phares:

Vice-President: Mrs. W. G. Wills, Jr.;

Secretary: Miss Vivian Cook; Treasurer: Miss Christine Berry.

As a quorum was not present, it was necessary to ballot by mail. The nominated officers were elected.

William H. Turcotte volunteered to serve again as editor of our Newsletter and was given a vote of appreciation for his good work.

A resolution from Miss Fannye Cook, expressing thanks to retiring officers for their work was voted.

John Phares read a letter from New Orleans member, Mrs. H. A. J. Evans, reporting having seen three Cattle Egrets at Jourdan Acres, near Kiln, Miss., on April 3, 1959. These are the first sighted in the state.

Vice-president John H. Phares presented the following program: (1) B. E. Gandy, curator of the Wildlife Museum of the Mississippi Game and Fish Commission, spoke on the value of museums, told briefly the history of our state museum and the hope for a new building for the Commission, one wing being allotted for the Museum with an expanded program; (2) Wm. H. Turcotte spoke on the urgent and immediate need of the acquisition of wetlands in the state; these are needed for waterfowl refuges under improved management and control. Mr. Turcotte then showed pictures of wildfowl, of habitat areas and of the building of protection levees; (3) Mrs. Bedford Floyd showed colored slides of birds in her yard.

Members present for fourth annual meeting: Mrs. Edward L. Bailey, Miss Christine Berry, Misses Fannye and Vivian Cook, Mrs. Alton Ellick, Mrs. Bedford Floyd, B. E. Gandy, Miss Mary Hobson, John H. Phares, Mrs. Mayo Tolman, Wm. H. Turcotte, Mrs. W. G. Wills, Jr. - - MRS. MAYO TOLMAN, SECRETARY.

<u>Mississippi Kites</u> - On May 25, 1959, no less than 41 Mississippi Kites were observed along the levee between Vidalia, Louisiana and Old River near where the locks are being built, by Miss Fannye A. Cook and Miss Vivian Cook.

Early Arrivals: Barry O. Freeman, Oxford, Miss., reports observing 15 chimney swifts at Lake Monroe near Amory, Monroe County on March 30, 1959. Seen the same day on the Natchez Trace 25 miles north of Jackson, one summer tanager.

Barry Freeman also reports observing on April 29, 1959 in his back yard in Oxford a male and female white crowned sparrows.

RED-TAILED HAWK NEST IN RAYMOND

M. F. Herring, Raymond, Mississippi, observed a red-tailed hawk nest on May 11th with large young within the city limits of Raymond. The nest was in a large oak tree.

FIRST ARRIVAL DATES

Your editor kept a list of first arrival dates on spring migrants this past season. First arrival dates are in the area of Jackson, Miss. unless otherwise noted:

<u>First Arrival Dates</u> (Continued):

Little Blue Heron, April 4; Yellow-Crowned/Heron, March 24; Blue Goose, April 25; blue-winged teal, March 20, Issaquena County; broad-winged hawk, April 5; spotted sandpiper, April 6; yellow-billed cuckoo, April 18, Greene County; chuck-will's widow, April 23; whip-poor-will, March 31; Nighthawk, April 18, Greene County; chimney swift, March 29; chimney swift in numbers, April 2; hummingbird, April 4; kingbird, April 6; Acadian flycatcher, April 25; wood peewee, April 11; tree swallow, March 14; barn swallow, April 4;

Catbird, April 25; wood thrush, April 7; olive-backed thrush, April 25; white-eyed vireo, March 28; yellow-throated vireo, March 28; red-eyed vireo, April 18, Greene County; warbling vireo, May 2, Issaquena County; black and white warbler, March 28; prothonotary, April 4; Swainson's warbler, April 25, Greene County; blue-winged warbler, April 4; Tennessee warbler, April 18, Greene County;

Parula warbler, March 22, Forrest County; Magnolia warbler, May 2, Issaquena County; black-throated blue warbler, April 25 (by Mrs. Bedford Floyd); black-throated green warbler, March 25; Maryland yellowthroat, March 14; sycamore warbler, March 22; prairie warbler, April 17, Perry County; water thrush, April 25; Kentucky warbler, April 11; yellow-breasted chat, April 25; hooded warbler, March 28; Canada warbler, April 25; Redstart, April 25; orchard oriole, April 11; Baltimore oriole, April 18, Greene County; summer tanager, April 4; rose-breasted grosbeak, April 26; blue grosbeak, April 19, Greene County; indigo bunting, April 19, Greene County.

ANNUAL FIELD TRIP

The annual field trip of the M. O. S. was held Saturday, April 25, 1959 at the Jackson Nature Trail in Hinds County and along Natchez Trace Parkway northeast of Jackson in Madison County. The trip was highly successful from the standpoint of the coffee and donut stop at Roses' Bluff picnic area on the Natchez Trace but was not quite up to par with the trip last year when considering the number of different species seen - 78 as against 95.

Highlights of the trip were: a flock of approximately 100 blue geese seen circling somewhat aimlessly at considerable altitude for several minutes immediately south of Meek's Ferry Road in Madison County before finally aligning themselves in a loose "V" pattern and disappearing in a northerly direction; a black-throated blue warbler observed by several members of the party; and two ruby-throated hummingbird nests with adults, all observed at various points on Natchez Trace Parkway. One nest was occupied by a setting female and the other was under active construction by the busy owner. Several M. O. S. members who had not previously seen hummer nests felt the trip was a success from this standpoint alone.

A check of the record for the spring meeting along the same route in 1958 shows the following 27 species seen that year but not observed on the present outing:

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Green heron
Yellow-crowned night heron
Blue-winged teal
Wood duck
Red-shouldered hawk
Turkey
Solitary sandpiper
Yellow-billed cuckoo
Chuck-will's-widow
Nighthawk
Flicker
Ovenbird
Yellow-throated warbler
Scarlet tanager

Hairy woodpecker
Tree swallow
White-breasted nuthatch
Gray-cheeked thrush
Blue bird
Yellow warbler
Magnolia warbler
Black-throated green
warbler
Blackburnian warbler
Chestnut-sided warbler
Bay-breasted warbler
Painted bunting
Swamp sparrow

Ten species seen this annual meeting but not on the corresponding trip last year are as follows:

Blue goose
Wilson's snipe
Kingfisher
Pileated woodpecker
Downy woodpecker
Black-throated blue warbler
Canada warbler
Savannah sparrow
Backman's sparrow
Pinewoods sparrow

---- REPORTED BY JOHN H. PHARES.
