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The Kentucky Warbler

Volume III.

Bowling Green, Ky., October, 1927

Number 4

The Fall Meeting—The fourth annual fall meeting of The Kentucky Ornithological Society was held at the Teachers College, Murray, Friday and Saturday, October 21 and 22, 1927. On Friday morning Miss Emilie Yunker, Mrs. Charles McBride, and Mr. Wilson spoke before the Murray schools, at New Concord High School, at Gunter's Flat, and at the Teachers College. The afternoon program, held at the college, consisted of a delightful program on birds and bird life given by the children of the Training School: an address by Miss Emilie Yunker, Director of School Gardens and Nature Study in the Louisville Public Schools, entitled "How to Attract Birds Around the Home"; and "Some Bird Characters", by Dr. T. Atchison Fraser, Marion. Miss Yunker stressed the planting of shrubs for their berries and for shelter to birds, the making of simple or elaborate feeding shelves and baths, and the destruction of cats. Dr. Fraser discussed the interesting characteristics of some of our common birds: The Yellow-billed Cuckoo, the Cardinal, the Towhee, and others, and gave a number of imitations of bird calls.

When the delegates arrived, each one was given as a favor and badge a Cardinal cut from red paper by the children of the Junior Audubon Society of the Teachers College Training School. This was part of the work done so excellently by the children of Calloway County under the direction of Miss Pearle Jordan, the Rural School Director of the Murray Teachers College. The exhibits were judged by our Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Charles McBride, Louisville; Mr. Edward M. Ray, Principal of the Sharon Grove High School; and Mr. G. L. Gresham, merchant at Confederate, all of them enthusiastic members of the K. O. S. Prizes were awarded as follows:

Bird Boxes:

- Best collection—Murray High School
- Best individual box—Anna Martha Parker, Murray High School
- Best grade exhibit—Gunter's Flat School
- Best individual box made in grades—Herman Culpepper, eighth grade, Teachers College Training School

Posters:

- Best made in high school—Murray High School
- Best individual poster in high school—Edna Hale, Murray High School
- Best made in grades—Sixth Grade in Training School
- Best individual poster—Third Grade, Murray Public Schools

Booklets:

- Best made in high school—Murray High School

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Best individual booklets made in high school—Rue Overby, Murray High School

Best made in grades—Gunter's Flat School

Best individual booklet—Martha Nell Wells, Fourth Grade of Murray Public Schools

At 4:30 the visiting members were entertained at a reception given by the Murray Audubon Society.

The Friday evening meeting opened with a series of bird slides obtained from the International Harvester Company by Miss Emma Helm of the Training School. These slides were largely concerned with the economic values of birds, though several of them showed in natural colors the birds in their habitat. Mr. W. B. Moser, head of the mathematics department of the Murray High School, discussed "The Migration of Birds", emphasizing the causes, the order, and the mystery of migration. Mr. Gordon Wilson, the president of the society, gave an address on "The Birds of the Jackson Purchase", enumerating the birds formerly found in the Purchase but now extinct and discussing briefly some ten bird families well represented in that area.

On Saturday morning at five o'clock thirty-nine members of the K. O. S. and the Murray Audubon Society went by cars to Devil's Pulpit, a tall, rock-capped hill near New Concord. There they prepared breakfast and took a short field trip, finding twenty-five species of birds. The party regretted that Mr. A. F. Ganier of Nashville, Tennessee, one of our honorary members arrived unexpectedly, too late to go on the field trip.

Dr. John W. Carr, dean of the Teachers College, took several of our members for the week-end to Reelfoot Lake, where they continued the enthusiasm of the Murray meeting. Miss Mary May Wyman, head of the science department of the Louisville Normal School, was unable to come but sent a paper entitled "Let Us Teach Nature Study", which is quoted elsewhere in this issue.

Dr. Fraser's imitations of birds and other wild animal calls were so popular that he was urged to give some more at the Friday evening session. He responded by giving part of his "midnight concert in Panther Hollow."

During the entire time of the meeting the K. O. S. people were the guests of the Murray Teachers College and were shown every courtesy. Even the breakfast for the field trip was furnished from the dormitory. Miss Pearle Jordan's enthusiastic efforts to make the meeting a success were so highly regarded that the visiting members of the K. O. S. voted her an honorary member for life. Thanks were voted President Wells, Dean Carr, and the local people for their making the meeting the best in the history of the society.

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Christmas Censuses—While we were taking our field trip, we resolved to make this year's Christmas censuses the very best possible. Eight different counties were represented by enthusiastic bird students, who promised to take a census. We want every section of the state to be represented. Last year we did a creditable thing; let us do better this year. Stay out as long as you can—a whole day, if possible. Count every species and every individual bird. Take the census any day from December 22 to January 1. Mail the reports to the editor, Gordon Wilson, Bowling Green, just as soon as you can.

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ECHOES FROM THE FALL MEETING

There is something fascinating about the word "migration". It turns our minds to the dim stories of tribal movements carved on the rocks by men who wrought in the dawn of history. We wonder at the compelling force that drove our ancestors through the forests of northern Germany or caused the Aztecs to cross the Mexican desert. Migration calls up something in our blood, for even the most stolid must at times hearken to the Pied Piper and with Kipling feel that "On the other side we are overdue". Migration is perhaps the most wonderful of all the manifestations of avian intelligence. It is of interest chiefly to the birds of the temperate zone, whose summer homes and food supply are for months buried under a mantle of snow. All but a corporal's guard of the birds of the northern parts of North America must go south every winter or perish from cold and starvation. It is a case of migrate or die. Many of the birds do not mind the cold of the northern winter, if it is dry; if they could be fed, many of them would remain through the winter.

The first question that concerns us is how the bird travels. Flight is of course the usual means, though a few, such as Quail and Turkeys, often move south on foot. But flights make extensive migration possible. It is said that the Wilson's Snipe and the Arctic Plover make the most extended migration. Some species breeding within the Arctic Circle winter along the coast of Patagonia, their long wings easily carrying them this long distance. But even short-winged birds make long flights. There are doubtless some long migrations made in a single continuous flight, while others consist of a sort of straggling from place to place, with stops for food, water, or rest.

—Extract from "Migration of Birds", by W. B. Moser, Murray High School.

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Christmas trees for the birds are becoming increasingly popular. Some of the children of the Louisville schools have planted a pine or cedar tree on the school grounds and every year decorate it with popcorn, cranberries, nut meats, and other food for the birds. A tree of this kind makes a beautiful shrub and at the same time a great center of interest for the children. Purple Beauty Fruit, a well-known shrub, is attractive as a shrub for lawns and is even more valuable for its berries, a fine bird food. Even a small corner lot in a large city, such as the one where my sister and I live, may be made attractive for birds by planting shrubs for shelter and food, by making a simple bird bath, and by keeping stray cats away.

—Extract from "How to Attract Birds Around Home", by Miss Emilie Yunker, School Garden Director, Louisville.

* * * *

Nature Study, rightly taught, teaches citizenship. One attribute of good citizenship is toleration, a regard for the rights of others. One good way to become tolerant is to see the other fellow's point of view. One learns to look through eyes other than his own when he watches the Robins build their nests, or when he watches a digger wasp excavate a tunnel between the bricks that pave the walk in the school yard. He who has raised a sulphur butterfly from the lowly worm found on cabbage plants has felt a pang when he saw the same kind of caterpillar captured by a digger wasp. One must be absolutely unteachable, a creature devoid of feeling, who does not sympathize with the lowly creatures he has had opportunity to observe. He

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feels sympathy, but it is a sensible sympathy that keeps a regard for proper values.

—Extract from "Let Us Teach Nature Study", by Miss Mary May Wyman, Head of Science Department, Louisville Normal School.

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Kentucky has a wide range of wild life. On the tops of the mountains are birds like those of New England. In the Jackson Purchase the flora and fauna are a combination of those north and those south of us. In fact, the range of birds from Fulton County and its lowlands to Calloway and Graves counties and their uplands is greater than the range of birds for the entire state of Mississippi, though the Purchase has only 2397 square miles within its boundaries. The great cause of this striking fact is the lowland region of the Mississippi, which is continuous from the mouth of the Ohio to the Gulf of Mexico. Many of the species that nest in the lower parts of this area bring their families north to our state to spend the late summer and early fall. Numerous records occur of just such happenings. On the other hand, the highlands of the Purchase ally themselves in bird life with central Kentucky, southern Illinois and Indiana, and northern Alabama. To use scientific terms, the Mississippi lowlands are in the Lower Austral belt, while the inland countries are in the Upper Austral belt. It is perfectly possible for species that are represented by hundreds or thousands in the Mississippi bottom country never to be recorded in Graves or Marshall or Calloway counties.

The birds of North America are divided into seventeen orders. These orders include every species from Panama to Alaska, from Labrador to California. Representatives of fifteen of these seventeen orders have been recorded in the Purchase. To say the same thing in another way, there are sixty families of North American birds. Forty-seven families are represented in the Purchase. All told, there have been listed to date 274 species in this area, which in itself justifies my statement that the Jackson Purchase is or ought to be a "naturalist's paradise".

—Extract from "Birds of the Jackson Purchase", by Gordon Wilson, President of the Kentucky Ornithological Society.

THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Organized April, 1923

President -----Professor Gordon Wilson, Bowling Green

Vice-President -----Miss Emilie Yunker, Louisville

Secretary-Treasurer --Mrs. Charles McBride, 1106 S. Fourth St.,
Louisville

Meets annually in the spring at Louisville, during the week of The Kentucky Educational Association; in the fall at some Kentucky college.

Dues for K. O. S. membership: local or state members, 50c annually; affiliate, \$2.00.

Address Warbler correspondence to the President.