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IN MEMORIAM: LENWOOD B. CARSON

L. B. (Buck) Carson died at the age of 73 in a Topeka hospital on May 19, 1968 after a brief final illness. In spite of frequent debilitating attacks of asthma, he remained alert to the world of ornithology and the outdoors until the last few days of his life, and was busy with a revision of his booklet "Introduction of our Birdfriends" when illness forced him to lay down his pen.

Buck was born August 31, 1895 in Oregon City, Oregon but his family moved to the Liberty community in Montgomery County, Kansas while he was a child. He became interested in the natural world at an early age and found abundant opportunities in the rural surroundings to pursue his hobby. After attending grade school in Liberty, Buck completed high school at Independence, Kansas. He took his first banking job at the Liberty State Bank in 1913. World War I interrupted his education, but a stint in the Navy gave him an opportunity to become acquainted with many pelagic birds. Later he attended Washburn College in Topeka before resuming his career in the banking business. Throughout his professional career he was encouraged by the understanding devotion of his wife, Elaine.

In 1922 Buck moved to Topeka where he joined the staff of the Central National Bank. When Central merged with First National in 1957, he moved to First National and continued in the banking business until his retirement in 1961. His warm personality made a host of friends for the bank as he served the public from his strategic place in the center of the commercial banking area.

Buck was an active member of many ornithological and conservation organizations. He was an early member of the Topeka Audubon Society, serving in various capacities as president, treasurer, member of the Board of Directors, etc. He originated the Topeka Audubon News and acted as its editor until the time of his death.

Buck was a charter member of the Kansas Ornithological Society and contributed much to its growth during the years, providing valuable leadership in various offices, including treasurer and president. He also maintained membership in a number of other state ornithological societies and such scientific and professional organizations as the Kansas Academy of Science, The Wilson Ornithological Society, the American Ornithologists' Union and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.

Buck contributed a number of notes and papers to the KOS Bulletin during the period of his membership as well as compiling the list "Best Bird of the Year" on a number of occasions. He maintained a careful record of his bird observations over the years and shared them generously with anyone who cared to use them. These notes were particularly valuable to Dr. Alfred M. Bailey and Robert J. Niedrach in their monumental work "Birds of Colorado," which included data from adjacent states for each species treated. Buck also provided local information for the Topeka area which appeared in "A Guide to Bird Finding West of the Mississippi" by Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr.

In the death of L. B. "Buck" Carson, members of KOS have suffered the loss not only of a valued leader, but a warm personal friend and enthusiastic birding companion as well.—ORVILLE RICE, 1663 W. 28 Terr., Topeka, Kansas, 4 October 1968.



T. W. NELSON (left) AND L. B. "BUCK" CARSON (right).

IN MEMORIAM: T. W. NELSON

T. W. Nelson, one of the charter members of the Kansas Ornithological Society, died on February 2, 1968 at the age of seventy-seven. Members of KOS and countless fellow-birders in eastern Kansas will miss "T," for though modest and retiring by nature, he contributed greatly to the growth of interest in bird-life in this area. A number of individuals were proposed for membership in KOS and their first year's dues were paid by "T"—most likely without their knowledge. He possessed a good library and saw to it that his books were circulated to any who showed an enthusiasm for the world of nature.

It was my good fortune to live within three blocks of "T" for eight years after moving to Topeka. We enjoyed many walks together in the parks near our neighborhood, particularly during the peak of spring migration, and I owe a great deal of my pleasure in warbler chasing to his excellence as a teacher. "T" had a host of friends across the broad spectrum of humanity, and took the time to know them and share their experiences. While accompanying others about the Kaw River valley on field trips it was not at all unusual for him to request a moment to say hello to a friend somewhere along the way.

As an ornithologist "T" believed in "kicking-out" his birds on foot—and he was always eager to stop during a drive for a hike through the brush. He had an uncanny ability to find bird nests, a faculty which resulted from a broad knowledge of recorded information, a sharp eye for detail, and an instinctive insight into the requirements of each species.

Writing in the Topeka Audubon News shortly before his own death, Buck Carson left the following memorial to "T": "He was not only an expert in the field of ornithology but combined this hobby with a love for the outdoors which made

any trip with him an event. Any tree, plant, flower, animal or fungus drew his attention. Not a casual glance, but a desire to learn all he could about the specimen at hand. If he did not know the answer he knew where to look. As an interior decorator, he knew colors and used this knowledge to help identify the tricky ones, such as fall warblers and flycatchers. During the past years, it has been our good fortune to make many field trips with "T," in fact we missed few if any parts of Shawnee County, with many jaunts to other good birding sectors of Kansas—every trip a pleasure, for we always learned more about how to enjoy nature by being with him. Things won't be the same without Nelson."—ORVILLE RICE, 1663 W. 28 Terr., Topeka, Kansas, 4 October 1968.

Green-winged Teal Nesting in Kansas.—Three nests of the Green-winged Teal (*Anas carolinensis*) and a brood of five ducklings were recorded during the course of a continuing waterfowl production study at the Cheyenne Bottoms Waterfowl Management Area near Great Bend, Barton County, Kansas. These represent the first recorded nests of this species in Kansas.

The first nest was found on 24 June 1968 during dragging operations in plot 6 north of pool 3. This nest, which contained 5 eggs, was in a sparse stand of cattail with a thin understory of salt grass. Two young hatched from this nest on 10 July, though one was found dead near the nest. This downy young will be preserved in the zoological collections at Emporia State Teachers' College, Emporia, Kansas.

The second nest was found on 3 July in a solid stand of water hemp with an understory of salt grass. This nest contained 1 egg. When checked on 7 July the nest had been destroyed by a skunk.

A third nest was found on 17 July northeast of pool 3 on plot 6. This nest, containing 7 eggs, was in salt grass with a thin stand of water hemp. Six of the eggs had hatched when the nest was checked on 7 August.

On 19 July a female Green-winged Teal and five young estimated to be about one week old were observed in pool 3. The population remaining on the area during June and July 1968 was about 75 birds.—MARVIN D. SCHWILLING AND DUANE L. KERR, *Kansas Fish and Game Comm., Cheyenne Bottoms WMA, Route 1, Great Bend, Kansas 67530*, 1 October 1968.

Vermilion Flycatcher in Kansas.—On 15 April 1967 we observed a Vermilion Flycatcher near the Cimarron River about nine miles north and one mile east of Elkhart, Morton County, Kansas. The bird was perching quietly on an exposed, wind-buffeted branch among low trees surrounding a small pond. It neither fed nor called during a brief observation period. When collected by Wiley for the first Kansas specimen (FHKSC 1396) it proved to be a female (ovary 6×3 mm.; largest ovum $\frac{1}{2}$ mm.) with little fat, completely ossified skull and slightly worn plumage.

The Vermilion Flycatcher has been reported in Kansas on two previous occasions. A sighting at Medicine Lodge, Barber Co., in 1951 was casually reported (*Kans. Orn. Soc. Bull.*, 3:14) but details have apparently been lost. More recently Mrs. A. R. Challans and Wynona Winn saw a single bird ". . . in trees along the Skelly Booster Plant between Dodge City and Minneola . . .", Ford Co., on 28 April 1966 (Mrs. A. R. Challans, *pers. comm.*).

The Vermilion Flycatcher regularly breeds northeastward to southwestern New Mexico and western and central Texas. During the non-breeding season many birds disperse—most notably northward and eastward along the Gulf Coast to southern Louisiana and northwestern Florida (Amer. Ornith. Union Check-list 1957:380–381). It has occurred casually or accidentally in all of the southeastern states north to and including South Carolina, Kentucky and Missouri with others recorded north to Ontario, Massachusetts and North Dakota (*Aud. Field Notes* and regional references).

An examination of literature and limited correspondence have provided a number of sightings from several states near Kansas. Even the following summary is probably incomplete since not all local publications were available to us:

NEW MEXICO: Breeding near Clayton, Union Co., in 1966 and probably 1967. Additional sight records back to 1955 (A. J. Krehbiel, *pers. comm.*).

OKLAHOMA: Attempted breeding in Major Co., in 1955; successful breeding in Lincoln Co. in 1960. More than a dozen additional sight records (1 specimen) since 1951 chiefly from the northern half of the state and most in spring but including several wintering birds. (G. M. Sutton, *pers. comm.*; Mrs. M. Baumgartner, *pers. comm.*).

ARKANSAS: Ten records since 1960 extending from 10 October to 20 January, all from southern, central and eastern parts of the state; one spring record, 13 March 1967 from Union Co.; no records from the Ozarks. (Mrs. F. James, *pers. comm.*).

MISSOURI: Five records (Kansas City, Hartville, St. Louis) from 1945 to 1967 and between 27 October and 5 May but most in fall (*Aud. Field Notes* 7:216; Mrs. E. Cole, *pers. comm.*).

NEBRASKA: Four records from 1954 to 1960 (North Platte and Omaha) between 15 November and 11 December. (*Nebr. Bird Review* 23:28-29 and 29:23; Mrs. W. Lueshen, *pers. comm.*).

COLORADO: Six records between 1950 and 1965 (both spring and fall) east to Denver, Barr Lake and Colorado Springs. (Bailey and Niedrach, *Birds of Colorado*, 1965).

The above summary strongly suggests that the Vermilion Flycatcher should occur in Kansas at least casually during the fall and winter months. Nesting at suitable habitat in the southwestern part of the state would not be surprising.—CHARLES A. ELY AND ROBERT W. WILEY, *Department of Zoology, Fort Hays Kansas State College, Hays, Kansas, 67601 and Department of Biology, Texas Technological College, Lubbock, Texas, 79409, 21 October 1968.*

Kansas Ornithological Society

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