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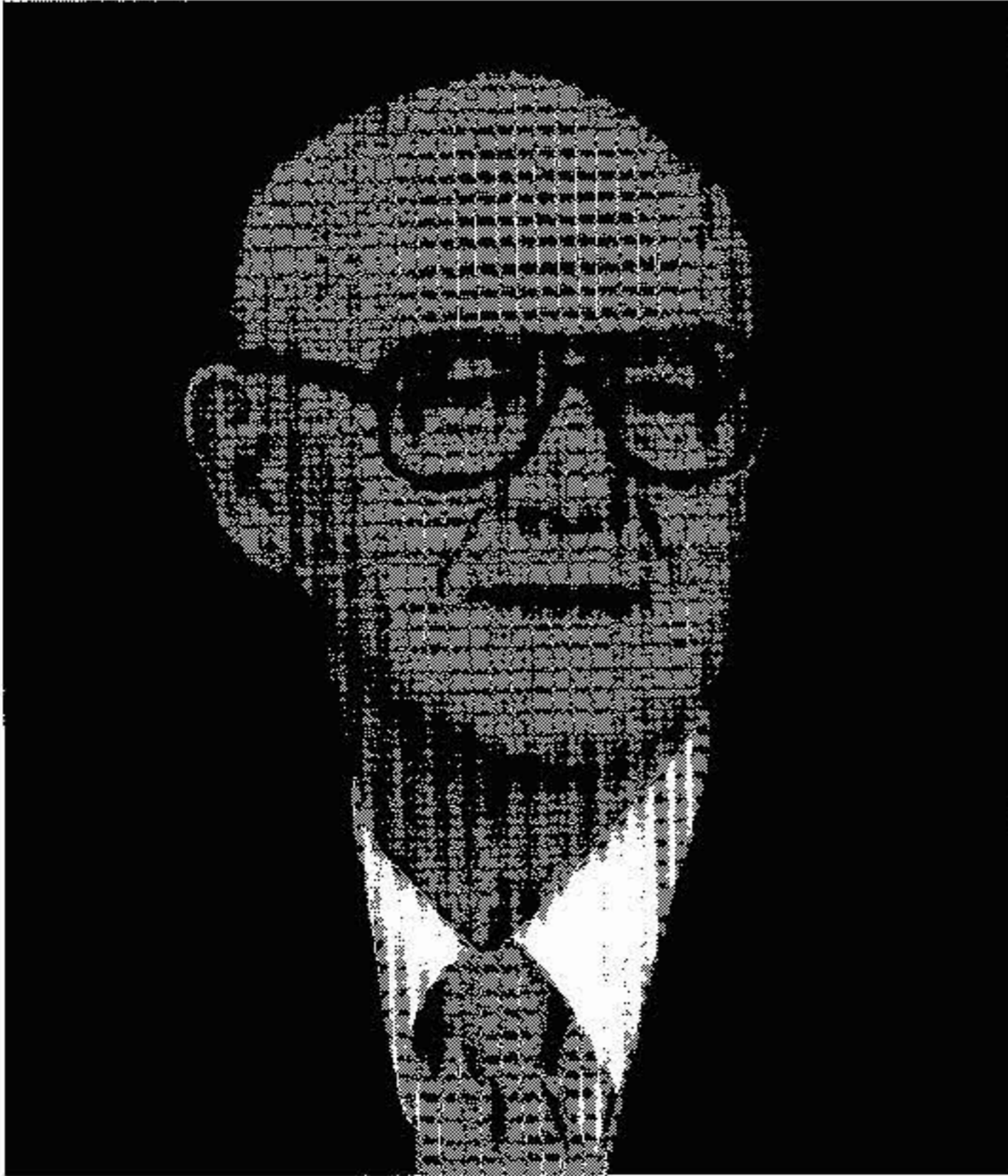
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## JAMES WILLIAM BEE 1913–1996

Wilmer W. Tanner<sup>1</sup>



*James W. Bee*

James W. Bee, professor of zoology and emeritus, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas, died at Seattle, Washington, 18 April 1996. He was born 25 September 1913 in Provo, Utah. His family, including parents, Robert G. and Mary Culbertson Bee, and brother and sister, Max and Mary, were residents of Provo, Utah, where they received their early education. It was from this setting in Utah Valley that James was introduced at an early age to the sciences of archaeology and ornithology by his father, who loved natural history and the little-known history of Utah Valley, its lake, and its early inhabitants.

As a youth and young man, he accompanied his father on many collecting trips that resulted in assembling artifacts of the past. These archaeological finds provided valuable informa-

tion pertaining to Indian winter camps, summer camping areas, and burial grounds, and an insight into the role of Utah Lake and the surrounding mountains as providers of abundant fish and game.

Their travels near this lake and in the mountains brought them in contact with numerous birds. Each spring flocks of birds entered the valley—some remained and others moved on. This phenomenon stimulated a great interest, so much so that James, his father, and various friends became amateur ornithologists. Their ornithological work encompassed life history studies, observation of arrivals in the spring, and investigation of nests and nesting. Ultimately, this interest in birds led to the assembly and preparation of eggs for those species nesting in the valleys and mountains of central Utah.

Thus was born a naturalist whose contributions are invaluable and most of which could not now be assembled. The archaeological collections are presently at the Museum of Peoples and Cultures, Brigham Young University. James and his father contributed 812 sets of bird eggs and 112 single eggs representing 234 species. James contributed 7918 mammal, 245 bird, and 504 amphibian and reptile specimens to the M. L. Bean Life Science Museum, also at Brigham Young University. In the Bean Museum Library are field records, 27 volumes from James and 20 volumes of his father's, all well documented and done with great care. These were written in the field as the data were obtained and represent field records of a time when some pristine conditions still existed.

James entered Brigham Young University in 1932 and received his B.A. degree in 1937. World War II interrupted his studies for the M.A., but this he finished in 1947. As an undergraduate, he became interested in and researched mammals. Thus his master's research

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was the mammals of Utah County. While in the Armed Forces (1941–1946), he was trained as a hospital administrator and served as a sergeant-major, organizing 50 key men as a cadre to establish a new hospital. He supervised several new hospital departments and for a year and a half served in field hospitals for airborne units in India, Assam, Burma, and China. During these years he met Annette P. Malseed, R.N. They were married 15 October 1945 in Kunming, Yeman, China.

In September 1948 James entered the University of Kansas to continue his research in mammalogy, with a desire to complete his study on the genus *Microtis*. He completed his studies at KU and spent a summer at Friday Harbor, Washington. He was a noted field zoologist and spent many years collecting research material and field data for the Museum of Natural History at the University of Kansas. Students doing research in vertebrate zoology at Brigham Young University or at the University of Kansas will find numerous specimen tags labeled "collected by James Bee." After 37 years he retired from KU and built a new home on Lopez Island, Washington. James and Annette were the parents of three children: James Robert, Annette Christine Kenagy, and Mary Pauline Bee Kaufman.

It was my pleasure to have spent several summer field trips with James. A highlight was the summer of 1939 when we studied the vertebrates of western Utah County. During this time we prepared and assembled museum specimens; of importance to me was finding a nesting colony of the western skink and securing additional specimens of *Hypsigalena*. We both participated in the new discoveries, and it was obvious that Jim was at his best in preparing precise field data. I learned much from him that summer and appreciated his dedication to a complete understanding of the natural world we were investigating.

James had a very likeable personality that was reflected in his family, which he held in high esteem.

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