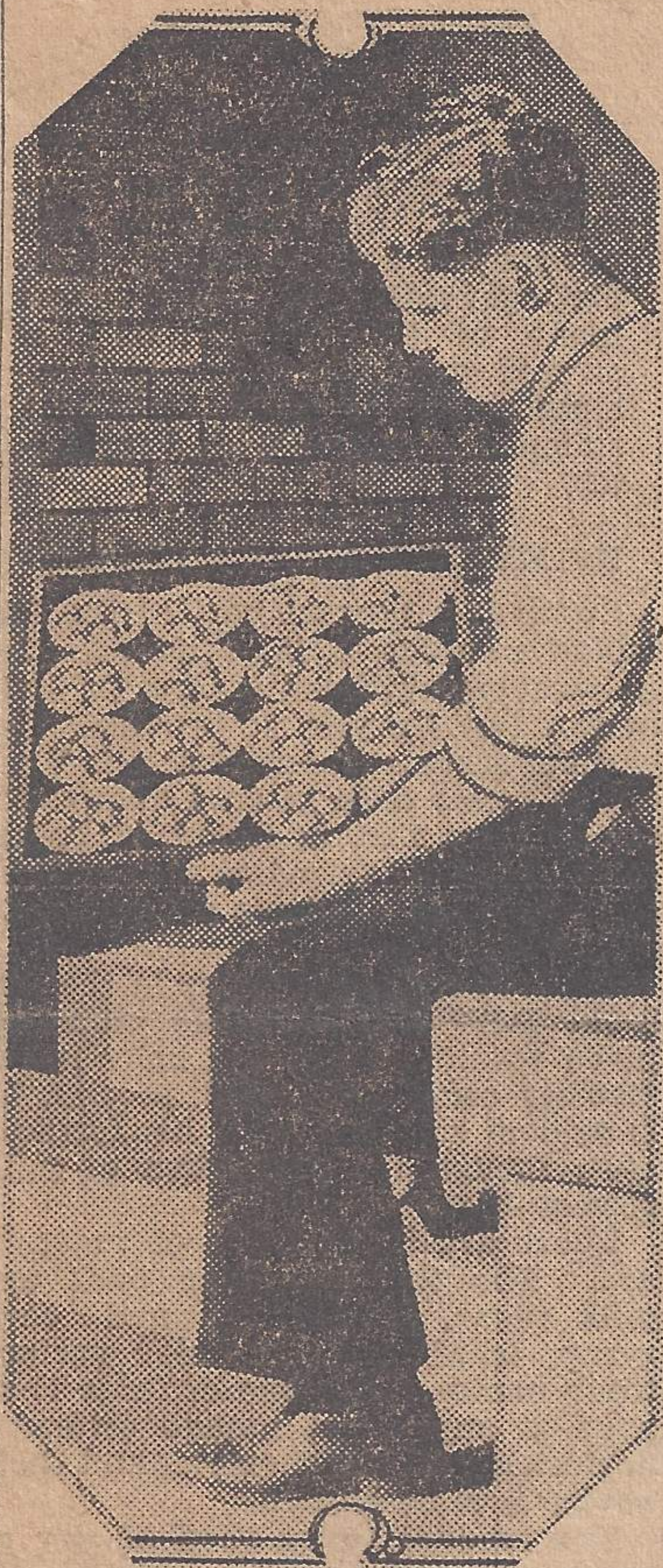


Provo, Utah. April 15, 1936 is approximate date.
 Date can be checked in Provo Herald files.

Freshman Is Ardent Worker In Field of Ornithology



James Bee

Toils Quietly to Discover, Pre- pare and Save Eggs of Birds

By MAURICE A JONES

PROVO—Much work is being done in Utah to increase the knowledge of our native birds. One of the outstanding contributors is James Bee, a freshman at the Brigham Young university and son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bee, 255 East Second South street, of this city.

Most scientists in the fields of ornithology work quietly in a desire to know the truth about bird life, and James is no exception. For years he has been studying our native birds and assisting in the preparation for scientific record their eggs, but only a few of his most intimate friends know of his work.

There are more than 130 different specimens of native bird eggs in Mr. Bee's collection. They vary through all the tints from white to blue, green and brown, some unmarked, others handsomely speckled, spotted, blotched or wreathed with different shades of brown, lilac and lavender, and their sizes vary from that of the diminutive humming bird, which has an egg .50x.35, to that of the pelican, which has an egg 3.45x2.30.

Prepares Carefully

Probably the outstanding feature of James' collection is his type of preparation. His desire was to create a preparation which would, as near as possible, eliminate breakage and the harmful effects of light and dust on the specimens. Summoning his ingenuity, he devised individual holders for each set of eggs.

After the eggs are taken from the nest, the contents are removed and the eggs rinsed and dried. They are then placed on a soft white cushion in the containers. The holders vary in size from two to seven inches in diameter, the size used depending on the size of the egg clutch. A dust-proof cover of convex crystal glass is then placed over the containers,

which keeps the eggs in place.

The holders are made of durable cardboard and the convex covers allow an abundance of light to penetrate, allowing at least 80 per cent visibility, and all handling of the eggs is eliminated.

Mr. Bee declared that the nearest approach to such a type of preparation is at the University of California. There the eggs are bedded in cotton, which permits only a small percentage of visibility.

Records Numbers

On the bottom of each holder is carefully recorded the American Ornithologists' union number, Mr. Bee's private number, the set number and the date and place of the collection. The individual holders are then grouped in trays and filed away in a cabinet.

Mr. Bee's natural history specimens will sooner or later find their way to a museum, where they can benefit a great number of individuals.

A study of our birds will do much for their protection and the knowledge thus gained will be for their best good, Mr. Bee pointed out. A scientific egg collection assists greatly in obtaining additional information and aids in the classification of our birds.

Collecting is done only under the supervision of the state and national government and is permitted only when some contribution to science can be made.

"The vultures and the eagles are the only birds that do not lay a second setting of eggs after one has been taken, and even they have been known to lay a second setting," Mr. Bee declared.

The rarest and most cherished setting of eggs in Mr. Bee's collection is that of a western goshawk which he obtained in the Wasatch mountains east of Provo last summer. James still carries the scars where the goshawk clawed him in an effort to thwart his purpose. It was only when the youth brandished a hatchet that the bird gave up the fight to protect her nest.

The quest for records of new native species and new records of migrant species is a task which Mr. Bee hopes to actively assist. He is certainly doing his share to add to the fund of knowledge of our Utah birds, of which we have been so abundantly blessed.

Nesting records are only available of 150 out of more than 200 of our native birds and he is working hard to make the record complete.