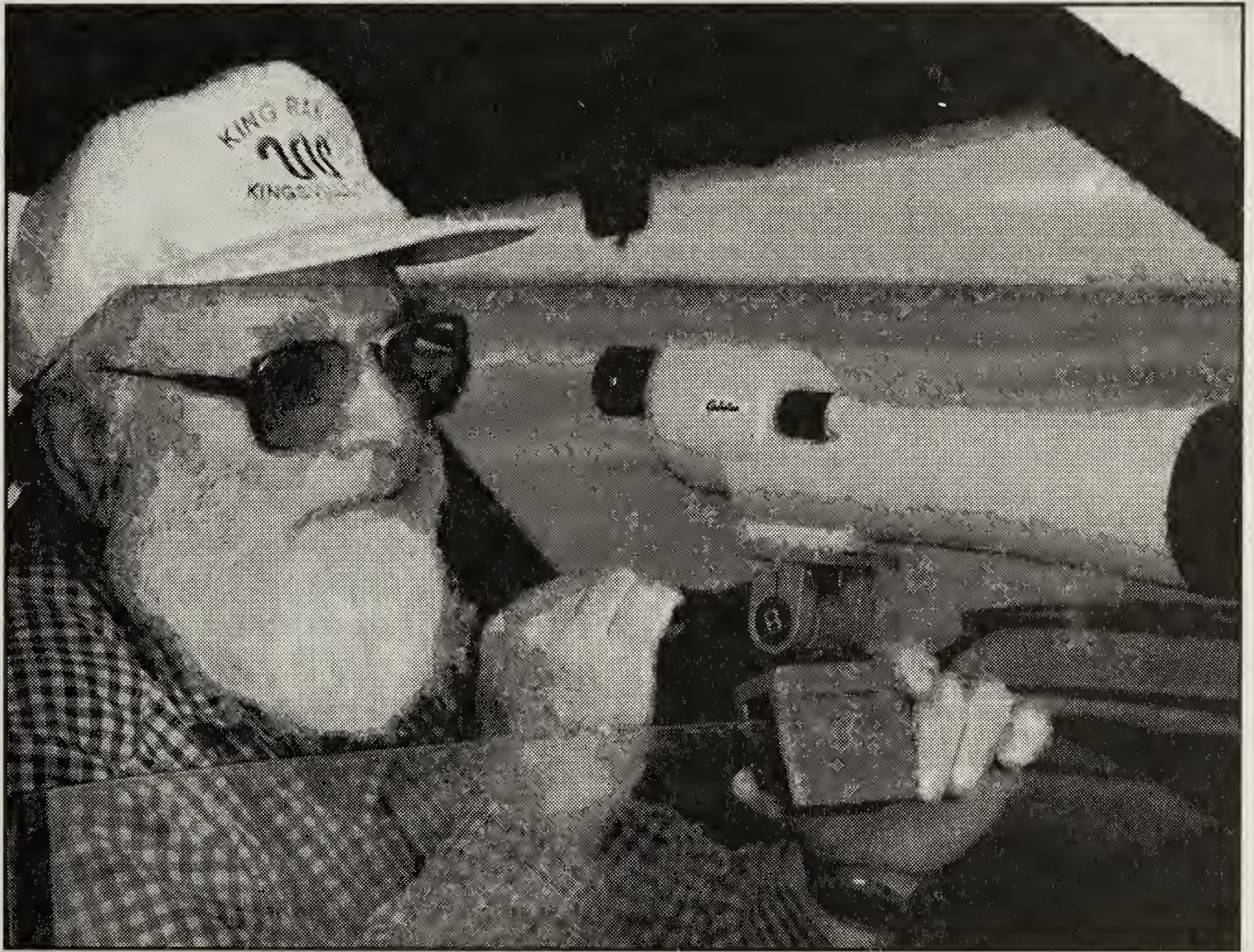

IN MEMORIAM

J. BERNARD "BERNIE" GOLLOP, 1926-2000

C. STUART HOUSTON, 863 University Drive, Saskatoon, SK S7N 0J8, J. FRANK ROY, 650 Costigan Way, Saskatoon, SK S7J 3R2, and ALEX DZUBIN, 2410 York Ave., Saskatoon, SK S7J 1J5.



Bernie Gollop, 1994

Mike Gollop

James Bernard Gollop was born in Ottawa on January 5, 1926. When he was a year old, his family moved to Chicago for seven years. His first bird memories, Red-headed Woodpeckers and Blue Jays in the woods behind his house, come from Chicago. When the family returned to Canada, settling in Montreal, Bernie began keeping bird records and joined the Province of Quebec Society for the Protection of

Birds, needing rides from his father or mother to get to field trips. At one of these meetings he met his future wife, Madeleine Furness. His first published article, in *Canadian Field-Naturalist* in 1949, told of a Sora egg in a Red-winged Blackbird nest, and of Madeleine Furness finding an American Bittern nest only 3 m distant. He obtained his B.A. from Loyola University, an M.Sc. in ornithology from Cornell University in



*Bernard and Madeleine Gollop,
1949*

Ithaca, New York, and a PhD at the University of Saskatchewan.

With his wife, Madeleine, he arrived in Saskatoon in 1949 to take a position as wildlife management officer and officer-in-charge for Canadian Wildlife Service. He was the first CWS employee in Saskatchewan. His staff grew, with the arrival of Alex Dzubin in 1956, then W. J. D. Stephen and Jack Millar in 1959.

To foster close relations between CWS and the University, which have continued to this day, Bernie was given an office on campus in the Field Husbandry building. When the Biology Building was built, Dr. Rawson invited CWS to take up offices on the third floor, and under Bernie's low-key but efficient administration as officer-in-charge, CWS finally constructed a building on Perimeter Drive, opening in 1966.

From 1949 to 1954, Bernie was one of the early researchers to work on the annual North American waterfowl population surveys. He apprenticed under pilot/biologist J. J. Lynch, U. S. Fish

and Wildlife Service, and Bill Hyska, Conservation Officer, Saskatchewan Department of Natural Resources. Strategies were planned out of the Kings Hotel in Regina.

Early studies were conducted across the province and intensive studies were initiated in the Kindersley-Eston area. Here Bernie ground-proofed the aerial observations made by crews counting ducks from airplanes overhead and made the first detailed study of homing and re-nesting in Mallards. He initiated long-term waterfowl studies at Pinkham, west of Kindersley, where he pioneered, in Saskatchewan, the use of dogs to capture ducks for banding. These dogs were trained to find ducks in dense cover and carry them unharmed to the banders. Widgeon, his Chesapeake Bay Retriever, was one of the best in the business. Using dogs and drive traps, one year he captured 340 young Mallards on two 40-acre ponds, the highest concentration ever reported.

In these early years, he had a profound influence on the future careers of two local boys, Richard Fyfe and Glen Fox, who worked as field assistants, and in 1957, Ernie Kuyt came under his tutelage. Also in the Kindersley area, a fortuitous meeting with C.N.R. dispatcher/telegrapher, Ron Lamont (who provided a "free" dog), led to three decades of volunteer cooperation with CWS.

Other work included developing, with Carl Walters, the first computerized model of North American Mallard populations, studies of waterfowl and crane depredation on farmers' crops, and research on waterfowl at Delta, Manitoba, at Last Mountain Lake, and in marshes east of Cumberland House. Between 1975 and 1981, Brian Johns and Bernie tested the use of bird song as an alternative censusing technique for songbirds in the grasslands and in

Prince Albert National Park, and tested the accuracy of Breeding Birds Surveys for birds away from roads.

After retirement in March 1988, Bernie continued annual wildlife inventories in several regions of the province. Working with his son, Michael, between 1989 and 1994, they made over 100 trips to the Luck Lake area gathering data for *Birds of the Elbow*, counting birds for up to 16 hours each day. These meticulous studies resulted in Luck Lake bird numbers occupying a prominent place in the United States Biological Survey Report entitled *Biogeographical Profiles of Shorebird Migration in Midcontinental North America* published this year. Also during this period, their counts of cranes and geese at Galloway and Miry Bays, starting in 1988, revealed that there were more White-fronted Geese at this one location than reported for the whole continent by the U.S. and Canadian wildlife agencies. Subsequently, Bernie and Michael piloted counts that led to a re-evaluation of the White-front population and new methods of censusing.

Bernie was an unusually competent editor and critic. He edited *Blue Jay* for four years, from 1973 to 1976, and throughout his lifetime helped many people prepare articles for publication. As regional editor for the Prairie Provinces Region, Bernie compiled 20 quarterly reports for *American Birds* from 1979 to 1989. His thoroughness and insistence on getting things right made him exceptional at this task, and at checklists such as *Saskatoon Area Birds - A Seasonal Checklist* compiled with Mary Gilliland. He also published a checklist of the Northwest Territories birds in 1978, and contributed to the 6th Edition of the *American Ornithologists' Union Check-list of North American Birds* published in 1983.

Thanks to Bernie, the 1969 version of the Atlas of Saskatchewan included range maps for Saskatchewan's birds. In the 1999 edition of the Atlas, he contributed maps of bird migration as well as, with Ron Hooper, distribution maps for all species of butterflies in Saskatchewan. Other local publications include *Eskimo Curlew: A Vanishing Species?* co-authored with T. W. Barry and E. H. Iversen, published in 1986 by the Saskatchewan Natural History Society, and the Saskatoon Nature Society publication (1992), *A Guide to Nature Viewing Sites in and around Saskatoon* co-edited with Peter Jonker. He also contributed the section on bird-finding areas around Saskatoon to the 1984 and 2000 editions of J.C. Finley's "A Bird Finding Guide to Canada."

Bernie was an indefatigable observer, who kept extremely detailed and accurate records; the number of his personal records came close to eclipsing those of all of the rest of us in Saskatoon. Before work, he would visit areas around "the city", such as the river bank, and make notes on birds, mammals, and other wildlife. He also took part in several Christmas Bird Counts each year, and for many years organized and compiled the spring and fall bird counts that covered the Saskatoon area.

He encouraged amateurs to record wildlife observations, especially in their own backyards, and in the 1960s he began a massive effort to record information from local bird watchers on the occurrence of bird species in the Saskatoon area. He distributed reporting cards of his own design and encouraged all local naturalists to record the number of each species observed each day. These he summarized in *Saskatoon Bird Review*, 1966 - 1971, and in some issues of its successor, *Saskatoon Field Notes*, through 1988, working with Stan

Shadick, Wayne Renaud, Wayne Harris, Ed Driver, Ron Bobowski, Chris Escott, Nancy Young, and especially Pat O'Neil. These early compilations, as well as other local records, form the basis of the Saskatoon checklist now in its fifth edition (1993) and the upcoming book, *The Birds of Saskatoon*.

Bernie's butterfly records date from the early 1970s, and in retirement, he turned more and more towards this area of interest. In 1998 alone, he made 149 butterfly surveys in the Saskatoon area between 27 March and 27 October, in addition to studies elsewhere in the province with his son, Michael. His regular butterfly hikes in and around Saskatoon in the last few years have created an active community of butterfly enthusiasts and he encouraged butterflyers throughout the province. As part of this effort he initiated, with Anna Leighton, an annual series of reports on butterflies. The first one, *Saskatchewan Butterflies 1998*, was published in June 1999.

Without ever seeming to talk down to anyone, he gave help freely to the hundreds of novices who approached him for advice and encouragement, and his unabashed interest in nature inspired those around him.

Bernie was a prodigious worker who preferred to let others take the limelight for much of what he did. Without question, he had more effect on, and contributed more to, the study of natural history than any other person in the Saskatoon area.

But none of this begins to touch on Bernie's human qualities. Although well-known for his dry sarcasm and his persona as a crusty curmudgeon, Bernie was kind, gentle, and infinitely patient. He was clever, witty, reliable, – a decent, principled man. He leaves a legacy of significant and original contributions, enriching personal contacts and a model of personal endeavour that will be hard to emulate. His skills, wisdom and humour will be missed.

Bernie, friend of nature and mankind, was stricken with a massive intra cerebral haemorrhage on May 16. He died on May 26.

We thank Michael Gollop, Mary Gilliland, and Pat Yuedall, for invaluable assistance in preparing this memorial.



“The ducks rafted in coveys on the river and drowsed with their bills nestled in their backs. The coots there swung around slowly in the water on one green foliate foot. The herons humped morosely in the trees, plumes elegant and sulky between shoulders. The chick rails would be under pinions now.”

Donald Culross Peattie, *A Prairie Grove*