

Nature Note

California Condor

► THE CALIFORNIA condor, largest bird of North America, is also one of the rarest.

The world's last flock of these strange birds of prey with their bald heads and hunched bodies now numbers only about 40 individuals—all living in a precarious sanctuary among the rugged mountains near Santa Barbara, Calif.

Once this species and its relatives ranged over much of North America before the ice age. After the retreat of the great glaciers, the California condor apparently retreated to the western highlands. When the pioneers first went West, the birds were still fairly plentiful in the California mountains. But their huge bodies, weighing from 20 to 25 pounds, with a wingspan of almost 10 feet, offered tempting targets to anyone with a gun.

The California condor is a member of the American vulture family, Cathartidae, which means cleansers. All American vultures are carrion-eaters and scavengers, keeping whole areas clean from the smell of decaying meat, devouring dead bodies of wildlife, even attacking live calves and lambs—one reason for the ranchers' hatred of the huge birds. Many condors have been poisoned by the strychnine ranchers insert into dead cattle to kill these vultures as well as wolves and coyotes.

Another reason for their diminishing number is the fact that condors have a very slow rate of reproduction. The birds are not ready to breed until they are at least six years old. Then the female lays but a single egg. They are also very shy. If a human being approaches within 500 yards of the nesting site, the parent condor will fly away and abandon its egg or offspring for too long and fatal a time.

The increasing numbers of people spilling into the condor's last resort, plus the activity of oil companies, dam builders and recreation programmers are all contributing to the possible extinction of this bird.

When they do survive, condors can live for a long time—as long as 50 years in zoos.

• Science News, 89:449 June 4, 1966

USAEC, 50 p., illus., paper, single copies free upon request direct to USAEC, P.O. Box 62, Oak Ridge, Tenn. 37830. Explains cell theory, tracer action, DNA, and RNA synthesis, the cell cycle and gene action.

RECOLLECTIONS OF MY LIFE—Santiago Ramon y Cajal, transl. from Spanish by E. Horne Craigie with Juan Cano—M.I.T. Press, 638 p., illus., \$10. Autobiography by Spanish scientist who specialized in the histology of the brain and nerves and in 1906 won the Nobel Prize for his pioneering work on the structure and connections of neurons.

RECREATION FOR BLIND ADULTS: Organized Programs in Specialized Settings—Maurice Case, forewords by Morton Thompson and others—Thomas, C. C., 208 p., photographs, \$8.75. Based on practical experience in the field of specialized recreation centers for the blind the book offers information on activity programs, leadership and administration.

RED CHINA TODAY—Hugo Portisch, transl. from German by Heinz von Koschimbahr—Quadrangle Bks., 383 p., photographs, map, \$6.95. An eyewitness account of life in China by a distinguished Austrian journalist.

THE RELUCTANT SPACE-FARERS: The Political and Economic Consequences of America's Space Effort—Frank Gibney and George J. Feldman—New Am. Lib., 172 p., paper, 60¢. Reprint of 1965 analysis of the space race.

RIVER ENGINEERING AND WATER CONSERVATION WORKS—Roland Berkeley Thorn, Ed.—Butterworths, 520 p., illus., \$27. Deals authoritatively with a wide range of subjects of particular interest to River Authority Engineers. Articles on hydro-geology of underground water conservation, land drainage and hydraulic design of river control structures.

SCIENCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: New Patterns of Living—Richard L. Meier—M.I.T. Press, 2nd ed., 273 p., paper, \$2.45. New edition, through short reappraisals at the end of chapters, reports where outlook has changed since the original publication in 1954.

SCIENCE AND THE UNIVERSITY—Boyd R. Keenan, Ed.—Columbia Univ. Press, 207 p., \$5.95. Addresses by prominent scientists and administrators concerning the problems of policy faced by the university and other institutions of scientific research with the unprecedented growth of federal funds available for research.

SEASHORE LIFE OF OUR PACIFIC COAST—Matthew F. Vessel and Herbert H. Wong—Fearon Pubs., 60 p., illus. by Joseph Capozio, \$3.95. Introduces boys and girls to the possibilities for exploration and field trips along the Pacific shore.

SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS IN IONOSPHERES AND RADIO PHYSICS, 1958-1964—NASA, Scientific and Technical Information Division—GPO, 60 p., illus., paper, 45¢. Summary of scientific findings in the ionospheric regions and new phenomena discovered with the use of rockets and satellites.

THE SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY OF ORGANIZATIONS—Daniel Katz and Robert L. Kahn—Wiley, 498 p., \$8.50. General theoretical treatment of the problems of morale and motivation, productivity and effectiveness, power and control, and leadership and change processes in large-scale organizations.

SPACE RESEARCH: Transactions of the All-Union Conference on Space Physics—G. A. Skuridin and others, Eds., transl. from Russian—NASA TT F-389(CFSTI), 821 p., illus., paper, \$8.35. Summaries of research on the upper atmosphere, the ionosphere, interaction of artificial satellites with the ionosphere, magnetosphere, radiation zone and cosmic rays.

STAY SLIM & EAT WELL COOKBOOK—Charlotte Adams—Maco Magazine Corp., 128 p., photographs, paper, 95¢. Sound advice and well-balanced diets with more than 200 recipes.

SWORD OF PESTILENCE: The New Orleans Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1853—John Duffy—La. State Univ. Press, 191 p., illus., \$5. From the collective records of its more articulate citizens, the author shows what happened in the city that summer and fall of 1853 when a tenth of the population died from yellow fever.

THE TECHNICAL ELITE—Jay M. Gould—Kelley, A.M., 178 p., graphs, \$5. A reappraisal

of Veblen's THE ENGINEERS AND THE PRICE SYSTEM in the light of the scientific revolution of our time.

THRUST INTO SPACE—Maxwell W. Hunter, II—Holt, 224 p., \$2.95. Written for the technically oriented high school student, the author discusses rocket fundamentals and the technical aspects of artillery rockets, orbital, lunar and interplanetary rockets, solar system spaceships and interstellar propulsion.

TIME PROBE: The Sciences in Science Fiction—Arthur Clarke, Ed.—Delacorte Press, 242 p., \$4.95. An anthology of stories, each selected to illustrate a particular aspect of science such as mathematics, cybernetics, exobiology or medicine.

TOWARDS AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE MECHANISM OF HEREDITY—H. L. K. Whitehouse, foreword by G. Pontecorvo—St. Martins, 372 p., illus., \$11. Traces the basic ideas of genetics through their development and describes concisely yet with essential details the critical experiments which led to the establishment of those ideas. Includes the latest genetical and biochemical approaches to recombination.

UGARIT AND MINOAN CRETE—The Bearing of their Texts on the Origins of Western Culture—Cyrus H. Gordon—Norton, 166 p., \$7.50. Drawing on the original sources, the book documents the growing evidence that until about 1500 B.C., Greece, Ugarit and Israel belonged to the same cultural sphere in which the most important linguistic and cultural element was Phoenician.

THE U.S. MINT AND COINAGE: An Illustrated History from 1776 to the Present—Dod Taxay, foreword by Gilroy Roberts—Arco Pub. Co., 400 p., illus., \$12.50. The fully documented story of federal coinage, from the first attempts to establish a permanent mint through the three Philadelphia mints.

UNITED STATES PATENT PREVIEWS 1965-1970—William W. Buchanan, Ed.—Bowker Associates, 1174 p., \$90. Includes entries for 800 major U.S. companies listing names of more than 40,000 individual inventors with titles of some 60,000 inventions with pending patents which they have assigned to those companies during the period from January 1, 1963 to July 1, 1965.

THE VELIKOVSKY AFFAIR: The Warfare of Science and Scientism—Alfred de Grazia, Ed.—University Bks., 260 p., \$5.95. An attempt to show that the controversy raised by the theories proposed in the book titled WORLDS IN COLLISION (1950) was unfounded, on the basis that research since then justified Velikovsky's hypotheses.

WALL CHART ON BATTERY SYSTEMS—Mallory Battery Co., four-color chart 28 x 44 inches, for free copy write on company or school letterhead direct to Mallory Battery Co., Application Engineering Dept., Tarrytown, N.Y. Illustrated chart depicts the chemistry and physical structure of advanced battery systems, as a technical aid to engineers and technical students.

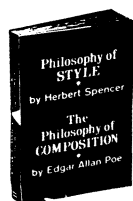
WATER AND WATER USE TERMINOLOGY—J. O. Veatch and C. R. Humphrys—Thomas Printing & Pub. Co. (Kaukauna, Wis.), 378 p., photographs, \$12.95. Contains more than 1,000 definitions and short articles on topics including such new words as aquamarsh, fission lakes, spate ponds, suffosion lakes and vicinage.

WHAT MAKES A LIGHT GO ON—Scott Corbett—Little, Brown, 56 p., illus. by Len Darwin, \$2.95. Clearly illustrated easy-to-read explanation of the electron action that gives us the electric current we use.

WILL THE HUMAN RACE SURVIVE?—Henry Still—Hawthorn Bks., 272 p., \$5.95. An optimistic forecast and nontechnical description of how man through ingenuity and technological advances will cope with the apparent limitation on his supply of water, power and space.

THE YOUNG NEGRO IN AMERICA: 1960-1980—Samuel D. Proctor—Association Press, 160 p., \$3.95. An analysis of the purposes and strength of the young Negro in 1960 and a projection of his outlook in overcoming his handicaps in education, employment, social and political status.

• Science News, 89:448 June 4, 1966



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