Condor Survey
1964

Mileage and Hours
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Days</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 4-5 1964</td>
<td>To Cuyama Valley via Carrizo Plains - Hopper Ranch</td>
<td>318 miles</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 7 1964</td>
<td>Fillmore - Castic Jet. Lebec and return home</td>
<td>41 miles</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 14-15 1964</td>
<td>To Cholame Flats - Rock Corral Canyon and return home</td>
<td>409 miles</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 27 1964</td>
<td>To Famosa - Poso Hills - Bakersfield and return home</td>
<td>214 miles</td>
<td>1</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
February 1-2-3, 1964 | To Fillmore-Castaic Jet, Hopper Mountain - and return home | 443 miles - 3 days
February 7, 1964 | To La Panza Ranch - John Bowman Ranch - and return home | 73 miles - 1 day
February 9-10, 1964 | To San Emigdio Ranch - Tejon Ranch - and return home | 319 miles - 2 days
February 13-14, 1964 | To San Emigdio Ranch - Bakersfield - return home | 293 miles - 2 days
February 15-19, 1964 | To Fillmore - Hopper Mountain - Oak Flat - return home | 443 miles - 2 days
February 23, 1964 | To Cholame Flats and return | 50 miles - 1 day
February 25-26, 1964 | To Santa Barbara - Ojai - Hopper Mountain and return home | 445 miles - 2 days
February 26, 1964 | To Woody - Glennville - Granite Station - Poso Creek and return home | 216 miles - 1 day
April 1964

California Condor

Eisen McMillan

Mileage and days in field

April 22-23 - 1964
To Bakersfield - Tejon Ranch - Atwater - Frazier Park
and return home
350 miles - 2 days

April 24-25 - 1964
To Green Valley - Big Pine Lookout - Sierra madre Ridge
and return home

April 26 - 1964
To Cholame Flats - Rock Creek Canyon return home
45 - - - 1 day

April 27 - 1964
To choice valley and return home
6 - - - 1 day

April 28-29-30 - 1964
To Pcto. Creek - Caliente - Tchuchupi - Rosamond
To Tejon Ranch and return home
412 - - - 3 days
miles and days in field -

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>California Condor</th>
<th>Return Home</th>
<th>May 1964</th>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1964</td>
<td>Cholame Flats and return home</td>
<td>41 miles - 1 day</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>1964</td>
<td></td>
<td>36 miles - 1 day</td>
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<td>10</td>
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<td>37 miles - 1 day</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>1964</td>
<td></td>
<td>43 miles - 1 day</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>1964</td>
<td>Bakersfield - Lebec - Tejon Ranch - Atlin</td>
<td>363 miles - 2 days</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>1964</td>
<td>Cholame Flats and return</td>
<td>46 miles - 1 day</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
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<td>41 miles - 1 day</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>1964</td>
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<td>42 miles - 1 day</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>1964</td>
<td>Cholame - Bakersfield and return home</td>
<td>246 miles - 1 day</td>
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<td>21-22</td>
<td>1964</td>
<td>Bakersfield - Granite Station - Tejon Ranch</td>
<td>71 miles - 2 days</td>
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<td>26-27-28-29</td>
<td>1964</td>
<td>Tulare - Visalia - Porterville - Fountain Springs - Woody - Granite Stn. - Bakersfield - Atlin - Comanche Point</td>
<td>583 miles - 4 days</td>
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<td>Date</td>
<td>Route Description</td>
<td>Miles</td>
<td>Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 1964</td>
<td>To Bakersfield, Lebec, Frazier Park and return home</td>
<td>218</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 1964</td>
<td>Bakersfield, Tehachapi, Los Angeles and return home</td>
<td>472</td>
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<td>June 1964</td>
<td>To Avenal, Cantua Creek and return home</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 1964</td>
<td>To Cholame Flats and return home</td>
<td>35</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 1964</td>
<td>To Carissa Plains and return home</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 1964</td>
<td>To Fillmore, Cow Springs, Ojai and return home</td>
<td>571</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event Description</td>
<td>Miles</td>
<td>Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>--------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2</td>
<td>To Carrissa Ranch and return home</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
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<td>July 9</td>
<td>To Glennville-Woody-Granite Station and return home</td>
<td>175</td>
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<td>July 15</td>
<td>To Avenales Ranch, Pozo, and return home</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 31</td>
<td>To Tehachapi and return home</td>
<td>220</td>
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California Condor  Eben McMillan  July - 1964
California Condor

Edith McMillan

August 1964

Mileage and Days

6-7-1964

To Berkeley and return home — 468 miles — 2 days

8-9-1964

To Lake of the Woods—Chupopute—Frazier Int.

Sandburg—Gorman—Nenach—Int.91nos—

San Emidrio Ranch and return home —— 387 miles — 2 days

To White Mountains Research Station out of home

pine, California and return home —— 200 miles — 1 day
California Condor 

Eben McMillan 

September 1964

October 1-2-3-1964

To Glennville and return home

221 miles - 3 days

October 11 - 1964

To Taft - Reyes Station - Apache Saddle

and return home

250 miles - 1 day

October 13-14-1964

Glennville - Fountain Springs - Springville

and return home

332 miles - 2 days
miles and days in field

October 1964

To Bakersfield - Lebec - Frazier Mountain - Chuparame - 372
Bakersfield - Tyon Ranch and return home - - - - - 37 miles - 1 day
Condor Survey
1964

Journal
California condor  Eden McMillan  7 January 1969

Ian, Brooks Atkinson and I left for Fillmore at 6:00 A.M. in my pick-up. We passed the southern end of Sona Lake at 6:30 A.M. Just as about 800 Sandhill cranes flew out from the lake heading southwest. These cranes passed over us and immediately set their wings to a glide towering as they went and appeared to be dropping in the grain stubble of the American Ranch about 1/2 mile southeast of where we were parked. This population is much less than the number of birds we saw here on December 1, 1963.

Arriving in Cuyama Valley at 7:45 A.M. we chatted with two shepherds who were attending sheep on alkaline about one mile south of west end of Cuyama River bridge (the mouth of Cuyama). Neither of these shepherds had seen condor this winter.

Turning off the Cuyama–Ventura highway, as it passes over Pine Mountain Pass into the Sespe River drainage, to the eastward, we know the Pine Mountain public camp and reviewed the shut-up signs etc. The out-houses (toilets) had been removed from this camp. These were what Ian wanted Ian Atkinson to see as one of them had over forty bullet holes in it. The purpose of this side trip was to see what further damage had been done since Dair season. We thought that but few people had used this camp since the first two weekends of the Dair season. Our sign appeared to have been badly mutilated with bullet holes since then.

We next stopped for lunch at the public park on the hill between Ojai and Santa Paula. We saw a white-tailed kite circling about a mile south of this camp.

Stopping for gasoline at the Union Oil Station in Fillmore at 11:30 A.M. the attendant then told us that condor are seen above the town on occasions but that-
Most people who wanted to see a condor usually drove up the Sespe corridor. I asked him how large a
mam condor had and was informed that the birds seen were about 18
feet from tip-to-tip of their wings. This man also informed me that
Today was the first day that the northerly wind had not blown
a gale in the town of Fillmore for some several weeks.

We stepped at the home in Fillmore at Eugene Percy's house and picked up
the key for the gate leading into Little Hopper Canyon.

Arriving at the Hopo Canyon Ranch of Eugene Percy we introduced Mr.
Atkinson to him and told of our plans to camp further up the mountain
near his corral for the night in this tent with his approval. To this
Gene Percy consented. While talking to Mr. Percy in front of his mountain
home he was telling us of seeing a condor during November and December
of 1963—Inn talking down his notes when I saw spotted one condor
flying northeast along the top of the ridge between pole canyon and
Hopper Canyon. This bird soon passed from our view at about 2:45 pm.

We then drove to the corral about a mile above Percy home where we met
Stephen Percy, the son of Eugene Percy, who is about 30 years old and teaches school in Fillmore during the week. While helping his father on the
ranch on weekends, Stephen Percy had also seen the Condor we
had seen a few moments before from the ranch home below. We
were informed that the carcasses of three cattle were about the area,
and one calf, but none had been eaten on by Condor.

We then drove to end of navigation on ridge north of Percy home
and from there hiked North along east face of Hopper Mountain.

Mr. Atkinson remained seated on the mountainside about 4 miles
North of where we left the pickup while Ian and I hiked on to the pass between Hopper and Little Sespe Canyons where the Pole-Creak Road and road going over top of Hopper Mountain, then follows the ridge, Converse and form the road that goes on out along Hopper Rim, in the place where the spring Canyon Trail hits the top of the ridge an Pemberton Rock.

I snapped several 35 mm BW shots of this road that showed where all three of these roads Converse and it also shows the wide space that had been made here. This is the spot where we first understood from Ranger Parkinson, of Ojai, that the Hopper Ridge road was going to and a big burn of dirt bulldozed across the ridge to prevent further travel along Hopper rim northward from this point. As can be seen from this photo, this was never done, nor were any signs ever installed where this roadway enters the Sespe Wildlife area. At least we could not detect where any had been put along the roadway that comes from the top of Hopper Mountain and continues along Hopper rim, after entering the Sespe Wildlife area a short distance beyond where these three roads Converse—See map below—

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california condor — edward mcMillan
1 January 1964

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North

Sespe Canyon Trail

Hopper Ridge Road

No boundaries here

Boundary Sespe Wildlife area

Hopper Mt. Rock

Sespe

No signs here

Boundary Sespe Wildlife area

Wide area photographed
Persons following the Hopper Mountain Roadway northward or any of the numerous trails (cattle) that lead to the Saddle, where Polo Canyon and Hopper Mountain roads converge, along the east slope of Hopper Mountain would not come across any signs warning them when they enter the Scape Wildlife Area. At least this was the case at 4:00PM today.

At 4:30PM two adult condors were sighted circling above the head of the canyon in the east slope of Hopper Mountain. It was getting near sunset and a brisk east wind was blowing as these two birds circled briefly, quite low, and then went from sight flying northward. They appeared to pass around the north end of Hopper Ridge and drop out of sight into the Little Scape Canyon.

We drove to Perry Corral and camped there for the night.

While talking to Perry Percy at his home this afternoon he told us that the U.S. Forest Service had approached him last fall for permission to widen the road from the top of Hopper Mountain through his property to the bottom of Hopper Canyon so they could get bumper trucks in. He had not given them permission to do so. Eugene said Mr. Jack Gains was the Forest Service representative who approached him concerning this matter and that Eugene thought Mr. Gains was working up some business for a friend of his that has a tractor and bulldozer. Mr. Percy said that they did do a lot of earthmoving and widening of the road on the north side of Hopper Mountain as well as widening the road that runs out on Hopper Trail to the Spring Canyon Trail.

Mr. Percy had been in bed with the Influenza for a week and only got up today.
The northeast wind blew a gale throughout the night. We were up at sunrise and had breakfasted and driven back up to the end of the roadway on the ridge northwest of Percy home by 8:30 A.M. At 9:45 A.M. we were walking along trail on east slope of Hopper Mountain. We saw two California Condors circling in the Canyon some distance below us. Three of these Condors came up out of this canyon fast-moving along the south side near its top and then crossing over above the old Gil wellsite in the bottom of the Canyon to clear the north rim and go out of sight around behind the north rim at an elevation about 3 or 400 feet below the level where we sat. These were all adults. The other two Condors flew southward in a level about even with the Percy home and were from sight behind the ridge that separates this Canyon from Hopper Ranch, or Percy Ranch Canyon. Three Condors rose above the ridge to our north and circled not far above where the three had passed from sight a few moments before. We watched these birds rise up and after getting some height above the Hopper rim, fly out towards the northeast. A strong and cold wind was blowing along the upper slopes of Hopper Mountain. We noticed that the Condors were up out of the Canyon bottom very suddenly and apparently with little effort. As these birds reached the top of the ridge across from where we sat, they did quite a bit of flapping of their wings. I thought the Condors showed less stability than on calm days. That is they did more flapping and when circling made short uneven gyrations, but they also seemed to travel faster and were able to gain altitude much quicker. No doubt it takes them more energy to remain aloft at this time of year...
especially when the Santa Ana winds are blowing off the
desert. They also seem to do less circling now and to 
lom near a lower elevation when traveling out any distance

Between 7:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. we remained sitting on the East
slope of Hopper Mountain about 300 yards from its Top. On several
other occasions we saw one-two or three Condor circling North
west of our position in the general area of Upper Hopper Canyon.
These Condor could have all been members of the three of the Original
five Condor we saw circling below us in the bottom of the canyon
at 8:45 a.m.

At 11:00 a.m. two Condor, one of which was a spotted falling
bird flew Northward directly above us and circled for a few
minutes north of us about 1/2 mile before flying out towards the
hole-in-the-wall area. These two Condor, like all others we watched
this morning did not seem to be going anywhere in particular, but
rather just flying around.

At 11:15, we drove to the Percy home where we stopped to chat
with Mr. and Mrs. Percy. At 12:00 noon as we were standing in
front of the Percy home talking to Mr. Percy. Two Condor were
seen flying Northward slowly west of where we were about 1/2 mile
about two minutes later we saw two other Condor following
on the same course as the two seen a few minutes before but perhaps
two hundred feet higher in the air. At 12:15 p.m. while still in
front of the Percy home we saw 8 adult Condor circling above
the general area of the canyons where we camped last night
which was also in the general area where two Carcasses of dead
cattle were lying. These eight Condor circled for several minutes —
above this area before drifting slowly northward; seven of them
heading up along the east slope of Hopper Mountain and one passing
slowly out to the northeast. At 12:30 PM, as we were preparing to leave the
Percy ranch another condor was seen to the southwest that was
flying northward. We then drove down below angels pass and
stopped in little Hopper canyon for lunch. At 1:25 PM, while eating
our lunch a black-bird phase of condor was seen flying eastward
about 1 mile south of where we were. With this bird we were sure
of at least ten condor having been seen, that were all different birds

Today,

we returned to key to the Elder Percy in fillmore and drive to
Castaic junction where we visited the dead-pit of Newhall land and
cattle company cattle feed lot. We could find no evidence of
any large birds having fed on any of the three fresh carcasses
that were in the ditch, or pit.

we returned home via lebec- mammoth and toft, following highway 53
to Blackwells corner chance up bitterwater valley to my home. no fog was
in the san Joaquin valley but a deep smog deposit that we dropped
into about 1/4 mile north of Old fort Tejon in highway 91 and here in it,
until we got to choice valley.

Reviewing events of the last two days there is no doubt but that condor
concentrate in the Sespe wildlife area in the winter months. also, food
appears to be no problem during the winter months – dead sheep were plentiful
in Ojai - four dead cattle on Percy ranch more of which had been touched
by condor would seem to substantiate this, as well as no condor feeding on
Newhall land and cattle company dead-pit. also, Condor do seem to exert
more effort in flying in winter months.
I was on the Cholame Ranch by 9:30 A.M. and remained thereabouts until 12:30 P.M. During this time I saw three Golden Eagles, all of which were young, at separate times, and Red Tailed Hawks were to be seen in the sky most any time I was there. No Condors were seen. The grass that was bushy and green has now all withered. I fed for a while on the grass. I found several more Cholame Ranches are being fed.

I picked up a dead calf that appeared to be about one day old and gave evidence that it had died at birth or a few moments after. This Carcass was near the road on the west side of the stream that runs from Rock Corral Canyon on the east.

This calf I put on the hill by my windmill in the chance that Condors may come by and feed on it in the next day or so. 15 Ravens were feeding on remains of the sheep carcasses I have put on the hill west of the windmill south of my house. Even though these sheep carcasses have been here, some new refresh ones from time to time for the last weeks.

No large birds other than the Ravens have been seen feeding on them. Carcasses dry out considerably in the cold dry weather we have been having but they do not dry. Where the sun or wind does not hit the meat it remains fresh for several weeks and I have seen no maggots on these sheep carcasses.
It showered lightly here at Cholame during the night, but the sky had cleared during the early morning hours. I am and I left for Fillmore and Hopper Canyon at 5:00 AM, via the Coast Route, but turned eastward at Cholame when we encountered heavy ground fog in the Cholame Valley and proceeded by way of Blackwell's Corner, Tule, and Grapevine Canyon. As we approached the mouth of Grapevine Canyon we found our progress halted by the Ridge Route being closed due to snow and ice at the higher elevations. We were held here for about an hour when the traffic was allowed to move on, supposedly with chains only, but even those who had chains did not put them on and with total disregard for the pleading of highway patrol officers everyone drove on up and over the grade with no difficulty in any way. Rare squalls of sleet were falling in the Lebec area. Snow capped the Frazier and surrounding mountains and a thin cover of snow was in the Castaic Valley and on Holland Summit although the sun was shining at Gorman and only traces of snow could be seen south of the Holland Summit on down towards Castaic Junction.

We visited the Dead Pit of Newhall Land and Cattle Company at Castaic Junction. No sign of scavengers could be found although a new black critter had been dumped here lately to add to the three other carcasses that were slow to disintegrate at this season of year. When cool temperatures keep the activities of maggots at a minimum.

We talked to Mr. Arnold, one of the cowboys who were shipping and weighing cattle from the feed lot. He said that
California Condor  Eben McMillan  14 January 1964

although he had been working at this location for a year he had seen no condor. He said he knew condor from having seen them in the Bakersfield area of Kern County and that on one occasion he had seen several in the Icings River Canyon. The temperature at Castaic Junction was mild and very little wind was blowing.

As we drove down the Santa Clara Valley towards Fillmore we came up with a strong east wind at Fillmore. From here on into Fillmore the wind actually pushed us along.

The elder Mr. Percy gave us the key to Hopper canyon and we set up at the Standard Oil Company Service Station in the corner where the Highway 126 and the Grimes Canyon grade road intersect. I am called the Ojai Ranger Station and applied for a renewal of the permit to enter the condor refuge and Sespe wildlife area. He said that a Mr. Bennett, who had talked to him on the phone, had assured him that a new permit would be forthcoming and that it would be permisssible for us to enter the Sespe wildlife area for the time being until the permit came through.

We drove on up to Percy's cabin at the mouth of Hopper canyon where Eugene and Ruth Percy stay at night during weekdays when Mr. Percy is teaching school in Fillmore. Eugene Percy was at this cabin having just returned from Fillmore where he had gone to have a tire repaired in his Jeep. Mr. Percy told us of seeing only one or two condor flying about his ranch since we were here on January 14, when we had observed eight condor over the Percy home on Hopper mountain.

We followed Eugene Percy to his ranch where we chatted with him regarding condition of his livestock and range. He is quite worried -
About the length of the dry spell of weather that has been the rule for the past 6 or 7 weeks, Mr. Percy thought his cattle were in good shape considering the shortage of feed but he felt this would not be the case in another week if more rain did not come soon to revive the feed.

Jan and I felt that Mr. Percy's range, where it was in bad shape from overgrazing, nevertheless had held out better than most areas we have seen lately and will continue to support the Percy livestock for some time yet without a chance of recovery. This feature has been made possible by the fact that the range of Mr. Percy is so situated that the water is all at the lower elevations and the higher range part of the range such as on the upper part of Hopper Mountain and in the Pole Canyon area are never grazed to any extent during the warm weather of summer and fall due to its distance from water and this naturally deter the use of this range until the lack of forage around near the water is done and cool weather makes it possible for the cattle to climb the fall hills and remain for some time before having to return for a drink. Thus, Mr. Percy's cattle are now spending a good deal of their time at the higher elevations where cold forage (wild cats) remains that give protection against the cold and dry winds to the new green growth, as well as preventing loss of moisture from the soil by covering the ground against heat and cold that tend to suck up moisture from bare ground that has no protective cover.
California Condor

Edna McMillan

14 January 1967

Ian and I then drove above the Percy Ranch home and crossed northward into Sulphur Creek, a tributary of Hopper Canyon, that breaks out into wide pastures on the Upper half of Hopper Mountain on the East side, and is open grassland at its headwaters. We camped at the lower end of this grassland area in Sulphur Canyon at a location where during the years from 1926 till 1929 an oil well had been drilled here that had included a quite elaborate Campsite. Evidently the crew who did the drilling remained at this site during the operation for remains of houses, water tanks and such like are still evident. It would be reasonable to expect that this crew would have since most oil drilling crews, somewhat lawless in nature and ready to shoot at anything that offered a target.

Two adult Golden Eagles were circling north of Percy Ranch home in Soda Creek at 11:00 A.M.

Two adult Golden Eagles overhead at Old Well site in Sulphur Canyon at 1:00 P.M.

At 1:45 P.M. one condor observed circling upwards over him to the North of our camp in Sulphur Canyon. This bird was riding the strong updraft of east wind that was racing up out of Hopper Canyon from the Hot-lin-the Wall area and remained facing into this wind seemingly capable of moving upward, sideways, downward or backword, as well as forward, with no apparent effort and with little use of any of its muscles, at least to a point she could see it was movement of the wings or tail. After sitting in this wind for about two minutes this condor, after having drifted up to ridge above—
California Condor  

Eben McNellis

14 January 1964

One-quarter of a mile, moved out to the northeast and out of sight behind the brush-covered and rocky ridge that forms the north barrier of Sulpher Canyon.

I proceeded to hike to the south facing top of Hopper Mountain while I was on top along the trail heading along the east slope of Hopper Mountain to the road that goes out on Hopper-Rim to the top of Spring Canyon Trail. When I reached the saddle that is near the top of Hopper Mountain, on the south facing side, and along the crest of which passes a jeep road that connects the Percy Ranch area with the top of Hopper Mountain, I noted reasonably fresh tracks of a narrow gauged automobile vehicle that had traversed this road since we were here on January 5, 1964. The tracks left by this vehicle were not of small tires, but seemed quite large and did not have traction grip on snow brand. Before coming down the steep incline from the top of south Hopper Mountain, this vehicle had been stopped for some time as an accumulation of oil that had leaked from the engine of this vehicle was substantial enough that were it to have been deposited in a matter of less than a minute it would have been a bad enough leak to have caused trouble to this vehicle within an hour time. This vehicle only traveled one direction on this road and what signs I observed pointed to the direction of travel to have been from Hopper Mountain towards the Percy Ranch, and Soda Creek. I would guess from what I observed that these tracks had been made within the last 3 or 4 days.

At 3:07 P.M. a condor flew over me, first, heading south with a wing that was blowing strongly and evidently with -
many turbulent cross-currents of air, for this condor did considerable sideslipping, dipping, dodging, and falling, as it dashed down Pole Canyon for a distance of about one-half mile, where it then turned about, rose up swiftly on the rising currents, with no apparent effort, and proceeded to move northward above the west ridge of upper Pole Canyon, and when reaching a place where the strong up-currents of air coming down Little Sespe Canyon hit and raised upward against the ridge that runs north and west, from the head of Pole Canyon, the condor then gained altitude suddenly, as it being blown upwards; all the while heading into the wind and never circling, and after reaching a height that placed it well above the horizon of Bear Heaven, and the Topa Topa Scarp, from my point of view, moved slowly up the center of Little Sespe Canyon and passed from right behind the thick scrub oak thickets that covers the north and west side of the top of Hopper Mountain, where I was sitting. Actually I was sitting near the top of Hopper Mountain a bit below the crest on the south, by southwest, side of the mountain. This condor passed from right at 3:07 P.M., while watching the above condor a White Throated Swift flew past me heading north over the top of Hopper Mountain. The east wind was blowing very strongly and the temperature there was quite cold.

At 4:57 P.M. (the sun had just set) two adult condor came from the South around the ridge that looks like a finger from Soda Creek, little southing, and passed over Ian and me. As we stood in our camp near the old oil well site, one of these condor had a wide gap in the right wing, about 1/4 way out from the body.
California Condor  Eben McMillan  19 January 1864

This gap appeared to be due to the shortage of at least two feathers. No gap could be seen in the feathers of the other condor. These two birds circled above us for about two minutes at a height of about two hundred yards above where we stood. A strong east wind was blowing at the time. This wind seemed to effect the flight of this pair of condor in no way. At 5:03 p.m. this pair of condor moved on Northeastward and disappeared below the ridge to the North. As these two condor passed from sight they were heading in the general direction of The-Hole-in-the-Wall in Upper Wopper Canyon.

A Horned Owl called from the large California Walnut tree that stood up the draw about 150 feet above where we were. Camped at 7:15 p.m.

Due to the cold temperature, and high wind, we bent into our sleeping robes soon after 6:00 p.m.
The east wind roared throughout the night. Screech owl were heard calling in the early morning hours. It remained cold.

At 7:45 A.M. Two Ravens flew northward and circled above our camp. At 8:03 A.M. one adult Golden Eagle circled high above the east face of Hopper Mountain.

At 8:30 A.M. one adult condor was observed sitting, or floating, on updraft of wind just north of crest of rocky ridge to the north of our camp. This bird faced into this strong current and held its wings visibly motionless as it drifted slowly up, then down slightly, on to the left or right sideways, all motions being very slow. It would also drift upwards and backwards at the same time, or upwards and forward with seemingly total control of direction and movement at all times. At no time did it appear to be out of balance or buffeted in any way. As this hovering on the wind went on the condor slowly drifted north and west, upward, following the crest of the ridge that forms the north boundary of Sulphur Creek and rises to the northwest, where it forms the north end of Hopper Mountain. After drifting up this ridge, always facing into the wind and never circling around, this condor finally ended up hovering on the wind above the top of the North end of Hopper Mountain. After remaining above North Hopper Mountain for several minutes in an apparent motionless position, this condor drifted eastward, downward, then southward, in a big sweep, all the while facing outward into the wind until it had swung with the wind, at which time it turned southward and paced away on the wind and passed from sight behind the hill, or the South end of Hopper Mountain, at 8:36 A.M. See diagram on next page.
Scale about 4 inches to the mile

California condor

Eben McMillan
Northern Mountain Complex

15 January 1964

Condo passed over

Condo next turned north

Near home

Hooder Creek

Our camp

Rocky Oaklands Bluffs

North Rim Road

Hesper Rim Road

Condo remained over for 10 or more minutes

Route of condor flight
At 8:39 a.m. an adult condor came from the south, into the stiff wind, with no apparent effort, and crossed along east face of Hopper mountain to the ridge north of camp that forms north boundary of sulphur creek drainage and played along the top of this ridge on the upcurrents of air until moving on northward at 8:41 a.m.

At 8:42 a.m. a young condor in the dull color phase, with the white under the wings, very dull and splattered, came from the south and circled above camp several times before winding its way northward where it remained for some time playing on the up-currents of wind that rushed up from the hole-in-the-wall area of Hopper canyon before moving on northward and out of sight at 8:48 a.m. This condor flew very well.

While hovering on the strong updrafts of wind, I use the term sitting on the wind, condor use the wrists a good deal but never with the tail outstretched and sort of fluttering as do the red-tailed hawks or sparrow hawks who also hunt this area and can be seen much of the time hovering on the wind. This condor give the impression of being held up by a string, or in like and just remain in one spot with wings outstretched to full length and apparently motionless and effortless. I have often wondered what a condor would do in a stormy, heavy, wind while maneuvering about in nice weather, it never having been my lot to watch these birds in difficult weather conditions before; but after seeing condor yesterday and today, in very high, adverse, winds, I am amazed at their ability to negotiate about with apparent ease and seeming to welcome the strongest and most turbulent wind currents, for at no time today or yesterday, did any condor I observed seem to be searching for relief from the
California Condor  

15 January 1969

Tempests. In fact the condor seemed to search out the most turbulent areas and so there to spend some time just sitting on these winds and apparently handling them with ease and dexterity. From what I have seen of condor in flight, during the past two days, I would say calm air and not strong, turbulent winds, are more of a problem to condor to cope with. Of course roosting could be another matter and perhaps this is one reason the condor return to the Hole-in-the-Wall to roost in winter and spring seasons, when heavy, stormy winds prevail. Perhaps the great cave or clique that forms the Hole-in-the-Wall modifies these strong winds to a point whereby condor can come in to roost, in late evening, without any trouble.

As was our observations in past trips, in this area of the Percy Ranch and Hopper Mountain, we have noted that condor do not use the Hole-in-the-Wall in late spring and summer and, well into the fall months. Evidence is now beginning to build up that the Hopper Canyon, and its Hole-in-the-Wall roost area, are very critical to the welfare of condor in winter and early spring seasons. It could be then without the Sespe Wildlife Refuge, a fall back on at this time of the year, condor could have long since become extinct.

At 9:07 A.M., as I was climbing up the east face of Hopper Mountain from our camp and having already gained about one-half the distance, to the top, I saw a condor (adult) coming around the ridge to the south flying close in towards the mountainside and about 200 feet below me. As this condor crossed a fairly deep ravine —
California Condor  
Eben McMillan  
25 January 1964

About 200 feet below me, it noticed me, and in breaking its
downward progress, it was buffeted by the turbulent cross currents of
air to some extent, giving rise to the thought that condor are
not too maneuverable once out of balance in a high wind. This
would also give rise to conjecture that landing in a hard wind
would be an effort for these big birds. Once having regained
its composure and balance, this condor rose nearly straight upward
in the process of making about three circles, and was soon well
above me six or seven hundred feet. This was accomplished
without any flapping of the wings. This condor passed out to the
north and circled about for a few minutes on the ridge to the
north of me, dropping from sight at times, only to come into view
again above the ridge crest. At 9:10 A.M., three condors were seen
circling above the area where the Pole Canyon road and Hopper
Mountain road converge on the north end of Hopper Mountain. These three
condors were observed while the condor that had been further down
the ridge was still in sight. Therefore, four condors were observed
circling or idling about. All these four condors passed from sight
by 9:12 A.M.

From 9:15 until 11:00 A.M., there was a definite lull in the
movement of animals about Hopper Mountain. At 11:01 A.M.,
a raven came by near where I sat on the south slope of Hopper
Mountain, near the crest. Three more ravens came up from below,
on the east side of Hopper Mountain, and gambled about in
the air above me apparently enjoying the strong currents of wind
that were still sweeping over the top of the mountains, and it was
still cold.
California Condor

Eben McGinnis

15 January 1964

At 2:10 P.M., two immature Red-tailed Hawks were hunting along the east slope of Harper Mountain. These hawks would mount up to a height of about 200 feet above the surface of the mountain slope and hover for periods of up to twenty seconds, with wings outstretched, head pointed downward, and flapping the wings gently as they held their balance on the wind. Now and then one or the other of these hawks would drop to the ground in a slow glide, but on no occasion did I see them come up with anything in their talons. These immature Red-tailed Hawks did very well at remaining stationary when hovering, for on several occasions they would do so below the opposite horizon from me where I could get a spot in the distance landscape to fix their movement against and on more than one of these occasions I would lose sight of the bird by its remaining so motionless while hovering in the air that it was difficult to pick it out from the distant scene even though my eye was fixed on it with the binoculars. Nevertheless, when these hawks hovered near me, it was easy to make out a slight fluttering of the wings and feel the wings, also, from below, could be seen to be pulled in and stretched out, sort of like fluttering in and playing out sails to accommodate variations in wind velocity. Condors show no sign of this fluttering or playing in, or letting out, the wings when hovering, but seem to just hang there like stuffed birds, not moving a muscle or moving their position.

On the lee side of Harper Mountain, directly over the crest, the sharp, cold wind, seemed to race on above, leaving a space with little or no wind, and, when the sun shone in on these areas it was quite warm, providing, of course, that one remained close to the ground.
At 2:35 P.M. two adult Condors came from the south on a level with the Percy Ranch home and entered Sulphur Canyon around the tree-covered point well below and to the southeast of our camp. These two Condors circled about considerably along the south slopes of lower Sulphur Canyon finally making their way up-canyon until they passed over our camp where they circled several times before passing on east to the north around the rocky ridge to the northeast and when last seen were going in the direction of the Hohokam-Blackwall. One of these two Condors had a wide gap in the right wing about one-fourth of the way out from the body. I would judge that this was the one of the pair that passed over our camp just evening at sunset that had the same gap in the right wing. When last seen these two Condors were together as they had been so this afternoon, as well as last evening. It was 2:45 P.M. when they disappeared from sight going northeast.

At 2:15 P.M. a brush fire sent up huge columns of smoke from an area about five miles north and west of Santa Paula. Everything is so dry from lack of rain, and the wind so dry, that serious fires could result now anytime these high winds are blowing. I noticed that although a small smoke in the riverbed of the Santa Clara River was being blown swiftly along the valley floor across from the town of Fillmore, the smoke from this fire near Santa Paula was rising straight up to a height of about 2000 feet before being carried out to —
California Condor  Ebenmichlinan  15 January 1964

The westward by a fairly strong upper current of wind.

Strong and haze, haze had been conspicuous by its absence
from the Los Angeles basin and adjoining valleys, the last two
weeks, began forming this afternoon. The strong East wind commenced
to abate somewhat as the afternoon wore on. I returned to camp
at 3:45 P.M.

At 4:10 P.M. an immature Condor came from the south
and circled several times above camp. This bird had a
shallow gap in the right wing next to the body as if the
first two feathers were about two inches shorter than the
others were - see diagram below,

This young condor had the black head, and the white under the wings
was very dull and muddy, and mottled, but no spot on the wing could
be seen. A triangle of white that did appear brighter and
more pronounced than other parts of the white wing patch
were noticeable at the point where the front edge of the white is
opposite the widest part of the white band under the condor's wing.
See diagram below,

I took five shots of Ektachrome 35mm film of this young condor
at what I hope is acceptable distances to show up the white under
parts as well as the gap in the right wing. This condor, after—
C similbng our camp several times, gained considerable altitude and passed over the gap in the ridge to the north of camp and was lost from sight at 4:11 P.M.

The Ektachrome shots were taken at 7½ at 5:00. Possibly too dark, for the shadows were long, and where the bird was in the sun, I was in shadows where I stood taking the film. One of the shots the bird banked so that the sun shone under its wings.

The wind died down considerably and it warmed up about sunset. We went into our sleeping robes at 8:00 P.M. after discussing condor for two and one-half hours by a roaring campfire.
at 8:15 A.M. the first large bird showing in Sulphur Canyon was Two
Raven that came from below and worked their way to the top of Hopper
Mountain where they circled and called for five minutes, or more.

at 8:35 A.M. the first Imm. Red-tailed Hawk came from South and passed
above our camp, flying laboriously, northward. Whereafter passing
across the East face of Hopper Mountain, it passed from sight
around the rocky ridge to the North.

It was calm until 9:00 A.M. when a gentle but cool South
wind commenced blowing on the ridges and in the passes.

Several White-throated Swifts hunted insects over the Point
where I sat on the ridge south of camp. Smog that filled
the Los Angeles basin and adjoining valleys commenced to
expand by 9:30 and soon arose to where only the Tops
of the high mountains east of the city could be made out
above the yellowish cast of this Smog. Our Camp was
above this Smog layer and the air about Sulphur Creek
and Hopper Mountain was clear and sharp.

At 10:45 A.M. an adult Golden Eagle came from the bottom
of Hopper Canyon between sulphur and soda creeks and spiraled
upwards, to where it stood above the horizon from where
I sat, and then drifted northward up Hopper Canyon
where it soon passed from sight against the dark background
of the Chaparral brush cover of upper Hopper Canyon.

At 10:53 an adult Golden Eagle passed swiftly south and
then westward across the East side of Hopper Mountain near
the top and disappeared into Pole Canyon.

At 10:58 A.M. an adult Condor came down from —
California Condor

Eben McMillan

26 January 1864

The Hopper Rim area and circled briefly about the north top of Hopper Mountain. This Condor had a gap in the right wing one-quarter way out from the body, which was a tip of living. This Condor, after circling briefly, went into a long glide that carried it out at the southern end several miles to what I thought would be about over the promontory that stands at the mouth of Hopper Canyon on the west side and extends out from the main foothills to the east town of Fillmore. When this Condor reached what I thought was this point, it reversed its course and came back toward Hopper Mountain, then-wind was south, what appeared to me to be a spot about over Angel Pass, where the Percy Ranch Dead Cresses from Tom's Canyon or Little Hopper Canyon as I have mistakenly been calling it, into Hopper Canyon drainage again, before passing into the Soda Creek drainage where the Percy home is located, and which is a drainage into the main Hopper Canyon. The Condor, after reaching this point, circled upward, gaining considerable elevation, after which it again turned southward, and without varying from its course, sailed back over the promontory west of the mouth of Hopper Canyon, continuing on across the Santa Clara Valley, and was finally lost from sight as it dipped below the thin blue outline of Wiley Canyon, and Dale Ridge, which is south and east of Fillmore about 4 miles. This Condor was last seen at 11:17 A.M.

At 11:31 A.M. a Condor was seen circling above the headwaters of Tom's Canyon about two miles west, or west by southwest, of the Percy Ranch home. After gaining considerable altitude this Condor moved slowly up the ridge, passed across the upper east face of Hopper Mountain from where it moved out eastward and downward and was lost from sight.
behind the rocky ridge mouth of Sulphur Canyon, while traveling in the general direction of the Hole-in-the-Wall. This condor did not present me with a good opportunity to make out any feather patterns in its wings. It could have been the same bird that made the long flight southward and across the Santa Clara Valley a few minutes earlier. When this condor was lost from sight the time was 11:36 a.m.

At 11:39 a Golden Eagle was sighted circling above the ridge between the headwaters of Tom's Canyon and Soda Creek where the Percy Ranch is located.

Ian and I had lunch and left camp in the pickup, driving towards Percy Ranch. We met Mr. Eugene Percy below his upper corrals as he was coming up the mountain road in his Jeep with salt for his cattle. It was at this time that Mr. Percy gave us the proper names for the watersheds near his Ranch. The Canyon which the road follows coming to the Percy Ranch that is a west fork of Hopper Canyon, and which I have been describing as Little Hopper Canyon, is named, according to Mr. Percy, Tom's Canyon. The Canyon or watershed, in which the Percy Ranch home is situated is known as Soda Creek and has been termed Percy Canyon by me up until today. The Canyon to the north of Soda Creek and which has been termed All Well Canyon by me before, is known as Sulphur Canyon, the name I will use in all future references to this watershed where we camped the last two nights.

Mr. Eugene Percy again stated that he thought condors fly out over his area more on days when a strong east wind is blowing. He has stated before that he fails condor follow the west side of the
California Condor

By James McMillan

16 January 1964

Hopper Mountain, and Hopper Rim, on days when the west winds are blowing. We may have good reason for this thinking; for today, I saw but few condor and none down in Hopper Canyon Proper.

Both Jan and I felt that when a strong east wind is blowing down Hopper Canyon, condor in evening elevation when leaving the highest area of the Hole-in-the-Wall, would probably fly down Canyon holding their altitude, slip around ridge into Sulphur Creek from the South, follow the up-currents of wind up Sulphur Canyon and some come out on top of Hopper Mountain with plenty of elevation to do in any direction they might choose.

We have seen condor coming up out of the lower reaches of Sulphur Canyon in the early morning on numerous occasions.

With a southerly or westerly wind, things would be different. Condor could fly out from their perch in the Hole-in-the-Wall and hitting the rising updrafts of wind gain elevation and head in any direction it might choose. This could explain Mr. Percy's theory of why condor are seen over his Soda Creek Range more on days of high east wind than on calm days.

We returned the keys to the eldar Percy in Fillmore and while there stopped in at 2:30 p.m. to visit Jack Gaines. Mrs. Gaines told us that Jack had just taken their daughter to the school for music lessons and would come right home to talk with us. Mr. Bennett, chief fire control officer from the fire chief's office of U.S. Forest Service, also arrived at the Jack Gaines home. We chatted with us for about 10 minutes after which Mr. Gaines had not returned, even though his wife had phoned him, so we left for home.

Nordhoff

While talking with Mr. Bennett we were told that Mountain Lookout —
California Condor  Eben Smithillan  16 January 1964

had been re-activated and that many of the fire control
personnel had been ordered to stand ready with Truck Pumper.
Mr. Bennett also mentioned that the late fire danger had made it
necessary that men be kept in readiness here inside If
necessary to forego sending crews into the backcountry to
work on trail repair and firebreaks.

Mr. Bennett also informed us that the fire from which he had seen the
smoke rising northwest of Santa Paula yesterday was a brush fire
that had burned one-half acre before it had been brought under
control.

We arrived home about 6:15 p.m.
The dense ground fog that has persisted throughout the General San Joaquin valley during much of the last three months has not been holding throughout the daylight hours for the last several days. It was clear, but hazy, as I drove down the Bitterwater Valley, eastward, heading towards the east valley foothills, to the east of Tamesa, in Kern County. Rain that brought 2.35 inches of precipitation to my place during 20-21-22 and 23 of January did not drop near as much moisture as this on the area below the Standard Oil Pumping Station in the Bitterwater Valley and out towards Blackwell's Corner. In fact, in the area of Blackwell's Corner, that is at the crossroads about twelve miles west of Lost Hills, seemed quite dry.

A coyote that acted very gentle and undisturbed at our stopping the car and looking at it standing and looking at us, was about 50 yards to the west of the roadway and nearly directly across the roadway from the old Fred Twisselmann water wells in the Bitterwater Valley. This coyote did not run from us, as we stopped, but moved away a few yards and stood watching us. It was still in the same locality when he drove on eastward after watching it for about three minutes, when writing this today, Mrs. Gladys McMillan was with me today and is being referred when I make this verbal statement.

A tremendous flock of wintering buntings were feeding and flying up from the ground every now and then near the road at the mouth of the Bitterwater Creek that flows northward from Choice Valley and the Temblor Range.
California Condor  
Eben B. McMillan  
27 January 1964

Thick, close ground fog, that was very shallow in depth,  
lay in spots between Lost Hills and Wasco. East of Tamosa  
about three miles we came upon a flock of sheep being  
moved eastward by three shepherds. One of these shepherds told  
me that the sheep were being moved out of the valley bottom and  
into the foothills.

Arriving in the foothills we drove off the roadway visiting  
three shepherd house trailers, only one of which was occupied  
by anyone when we arrived. This shepherd was a very  
light complexioned, freckled faced, red haired, Basque sheepdog who  
knoc/k saw a condor but had not seen any in the area although  
he had been camped here for several weeks and during this  
time knew of dead sheep being present most of the time.

Neither had he seen eagles although he claimed he had  
knowledge of eagles and could identify one were it  
to come into his area.

As we drove over these rolling foothills with their shallow  
draws, with little or no erosion in their bottoms, and smooth  
rolling hilltops there was very little evidence of ground  
squirrels in this area. Although this is the general area  
where Kofoed found condor feeding regularly on poisoned  
ground squirrels in the springtime when poisoning  
activities were being carried on here in the years when  
a he was doing his life history study of condor. Some of these  
dates by Kofoed were from May to August in 1946 when he found  
condor feeding on poisoned ground squirrels here. We saw  
only one den of ground squirrels in which three
Squirrels were observed. This den was located in what had been a wire corral but now only had a few posts remaining about the outside and some wire scattered here and there. These probably gave these squirrels a measure of protection against predators, as well as the influence of the concentrating here, in this corral, in past time, numbers of sheep, so that the soil had been enriched and was now growing much more grass than was any of the surrounding area. We did see great numbers of mound depressions that appeared to have been remains of ground squirrel dens from the past. These features attested to great numbers of these rodents having been here at one time. 1080 poison, used in organized drives on California ground squirrels all over Central California has this mammal rather uncommon in many areas.

A few Jackrabbits were seen in this area east of Jumosa. These rabbits hide during the day time in the piles of Russian Thistle (Salsola kali L. var. tenutifolia) that have been rolled into the draws and concentrated in piles in the low places where the wind has left them. These areas are not sufficient to give protection to large numbers of Jackrabbits.

This foothill area to the east of Jumosa, and west of the Bakersfield Woody road, does not seem to be heavily populated with kangaroo rats. Jackrabbits being the only mammal of any consequence there in the wild state.
At 10:15 A.M. we stopped to interview three men who were repairing the county road that goes from Woody to Famosa. Richard Kambrick, one of these men, who lives in Glenville, knows condor and has seen them many times. He thinks this is a bit early to see condor in the Granite Station area. He thinks condor come into this area in the springtime. Mr. Kambrick said he saw 34 condor about four years ago at the foot of Rattlesnake grade in the Rancheria area at the southwest end of Greenhorn Mountain. After questioning him concerning the seeing of the 34 condor he then said it was some number about that figure. Kambrick thought the Rancheria area the best place to see condor with the hills below Granite Station running a close second.

Darrell Degler, another one of the men working on the county road here, and who also lives in Glenville, said he saw two condor last year in the valley below Granite Station where Carl West lives. Mr. Degler also knows condor and has seen them off and on over the years in the Granite Station. Mr. Cresio Driver, was the third member of this trio who work at maintaining the roads in this area for Kern County and all live in Glenville. They will all be on the lookout for condor and leave word with Mrs. Evalyn Farnsworth should they see anything unusual.

We then stopped at the home of Mr. Russell Lawrence Moore that is located near the road in the area where the Poso Creek Oil Field crosses the Woody-Famosa roadways. Mrs. Moore immediately informed me that she knew condor very well and that her husband had seen condor so the last of -
her home within the last few years. Mrs. Moore does not think
Condor come to the Mount Poso and Granite Section area
in the winter months. She thinks they show up in the spring-
time. Mrs. Moore said that Buzzards always return to the
Mr. Poso area on the 19th of February of each year. The
reason she feels sure this is so, is, that her grandfather's
birthday was on the 19th of February and on many
occasions they would observe the first Turkey Buzzard
arrive in Spring, in this area, on this date. In fact,
she mentioned that, having at times, chided her Grandfather
about this connection between he and the Buzzards,
Mrs.
Moore spends the summer months on Greenhorn
Mountain between Davis Campground and Basket Pass,
she has not seen Condor in that area. She took my
address, and Telephone number, and promised to phone,
or write me of any new developments, or observations,
regarding Condor that she might come by.

Bautista Aleman, a shepherd for Joe
Bautista, who is
camped to the east of the crossroads of the Bakersfield-
Woody road and the north junction of Tamos road. Mr.
Bautista had seen Raven coming to feed on Carcasses of
Sheep that have died in his flock during the last three weeks,
but he has seen neither Eagle or Condor. He appears to
know what Condor are and having been in America for
several years and having herded sheep in different sections of
California, has probably seen Condor. A sheep carcass that had
been recently skinned and thrown in a shallow ditch to
California Condor

Elena McMillan

27 January 1964

the south of Bakersfield. The house is about two hundred yards, had not been eaten by scavengers of any sort. Mr. Aleman will keep a watch out for condor and report to me on his observations the next time I see him.

At 12:15 P.M. we parted of our lunch on top of Mt. Popo. The air was clear. It was also calm. One Red Tailed Hawk was seen circling to the west of where we were at 12:30 P.M. Otherwise no large birds showed during the hour we spent here.

At 12:45 P.M. two adults, on tote-gates, or their vehicles, came across the hills, roosting up the ridges and coasting down the inclines on the opposite side. They roamed about our area for ten minutes before leaving.

These men did not have firearms that I could see.

At 2:15 P.M. I stopped at the Winter Field Office of the Kern County Agricultural Commissioner. This is about fifteen miles north of Bakersfield, California at the juncture of the Shafter highway. Mr. Ben Easley, the representative of this office who is in charge of Nudant and Pest Control was here. Upon learning of my mission Mr. Easley immediately commenced telling me of his implication with the Brown Condor carcass that he had known of for some time. The following is generally his story of this affair:

Mr. Easley first learned of the Brown Condor after it came into Mrs. Brown's possession. He said that
Dorothy Albriton first found this condor when she was poisoning squirrels on the property managed by Carl Hest. Knowing Mrs. Margaret Brown to be interested in strange birds, Mrs. Albriton told Mrs. Brown about having seen this dead condor. Mrs. Brown immediately went to the location and found the condor and loading it into her car. Took it to her home and stretching it out on a wire fence proceeded to wash it out with water from a garden hose in order to get it so it would not smell so bad. Mrs. Brown saw wheat fall from the carcass of this bird as it was being washed and this wheat, or barley, had a light greenish yellow color like that grain that is used by the poisoners in poisoning squirrels. The water running from this carcass passed through a wire pen in which several ducks were kept. The ducks in this pen died a short time after the water ran through their pen. Mrs. Easley first saw the Brown Condor after it had hung in the barn for some months. A Dr. Lawrence from the Bakersfield College was supposed to have come to Mrs. Brown’s ranch to investigate the dead condor. Mrs. Brown had some misunderstanding regarding what Dr. Lawrence planned to do with the condor and she denied him the privilege of seeing it further. Mr. Easley said that when he heard that Jan and I were doing research—
on condor he immediately phoned Mrs. Brown to inform her that he would be interested in seeing her specimen and taking it for scientific analysis. Mrs. Brown, during this phone conversation, informed Mr. Easley that I had already come to her place, on the advice of Mr. Sam Seter of Parkfield, and taken the condor carcass with me.

Mr. Deen Easley also informed me today of a Mr. Claud Fennell, who is now agricultural commissioner of Imperial County, California, had reported to him several years ago of having seen a dead condor on the Tejon Ranch that had been shot with a rifle about the size of a .22 Caliber from the size of the hole it made. I will write Mr. Fennell for information on this sighting immediately. Mr. Easley stated that Mr. Fennell had been on the Tejon Ranch making a survey of potential grasshopper invasions. This, he thought, would have probably been in late April or May of 1950 or 1951, or possibly 1952.

Mr. Easley thought the Brown Condor could have been poisoned by feeding on young squirrels that Mr. Easley claims are in the habit of stuffing their pouches with poison grains before they die of the poison. He thinks condor might find these young squirrels lying dead and swallow them whole, thereby getting the grains that were in the dead squirrels pouches. Easley thinks 1080 poison would kill any warm blooded animal that got a sizable amount of this poison into its system.
Three or four years ago Ben Easley saw 29 Condor in the White Wolf area southeast of Bakersfield. These birds were perched and flying around near the Tyjon Ranch Corrals in White Wolf Pass and were feeding on the carcass of a cow that lay in a draw not far from the White Wolf Corrals. Several of these were young birds Mr. Easley said for they lacked the White under the wings. He thought these Condor remained in the White Wolf area for several days.

John White, an assistant and field man for Ben Easley said that a week or two before Mr. Easley saw the Condor at White Wolf he had seen 19 Condor when poisoning squirrels below the Jeff Hitchcock Ranch in the Rancheria area at the foot of Rattlesnake Grade. This area is at the southwest end of Greenhorn Mountain and on the road from the mouth of Kern River to Greenhorn Mountain. Mr. White said these Condor were at this locality for several days before they left.

When the squirrel poisoning was operation was moved from this locality to the White Wolf area, a week or ten days later, that was when Easley saw the Condor at White Wolf.

John White knows Dr. Lawrence (George) of the Bakersfield Jr. College. He said that Dr. Lawrence wrote his thesis on Condor and thought he would have some good information that he could use. I will look Dr. Lawrence up on some future trip to Bakersfield.
Ben Easley told me today that kangaroo rats are not much of a problem in Kern County, only on a few occasions has it been necessary to make a special Project of Poisoning Kangaroo rats. Last year his force oversaw an operation where kangaroo rat poisoning was done by airplane. This took place in the summertime on a half section of land in the southwest of the Rancheria area about five miles. Mr. Easley tried to set about three pounds of poison scattered on each acre of land. He stretched a 20 (Twenty) foot square canvas on the ground and as the plane flew over it dropped about three kernels of whole grain barley on this canvas. He and his crew watched this poisoned area for three mornings following the application by plane, two mornings immediately following the application and the third morning of inspection came after two days of a weekend separated the inspection dates. He said that no scavengers or predatory birds, were noted in this area on any of the three inspection trips following the application of the poison, nor did they find many dead rats. Easley thought good numbers of rats had been killed with the poison but that nocturnal scavengers removed them by daylight.

Strychnine Poison was used in this Rat Poisoning Project.

I forgot to enter our seeing and photographing the rats of forty (40) adult sheep that were hanging on a 100 foot wire fence to the south of the road on the woody Famosa roadway about one mile east of highway 65. No carcasses could be seen in the area.
A postal card was received in the mail today from Evalyn Farnsworth, of Glenville, Kern County, California. The card was mailed January 21, 1964 and read as follows: "January 21, 1964 at 12:40 P.M. we saw three condors circling over the top of "Bear Hollow Hill", on the Glory Glennville road about 2½-3 miles toward Woody from the intersection of their road and the Granite Station road. The sky was very dark so we could only see that two were adults. The third one could have been a young one for we saw far away to tell fortune. The sky was very stormy although not as cold as the weather we had been having. We had just driven through a very heavy snow flurry a few minutes before we saw the birds. They apparently were headed due south for one was sailing in that direction when we looked back from further down the road. Did you get any useful information from Floyd Smith? Sincerely— Signature—

This is evidence that condors move about in the Glennville and Granite Station areas during winter months and even in periods of intense weather.

Here rises a threat to condors from high power lines when they are forced to fly in these storms with visibility limited to a few rods or even perhaps a few feet at times. After seeing condors manipulate in the strong gusty winds over Wopper Mountain last week I now feel they are capable of flying in any weather as long as they can see, but with snow storms and thick fog to impede their progress, especially the high-power lines strong high across the canyons, this could be a factor in condor mortality.

The above post card was filed of course.
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A high fog that was quite cold prevailed as I and 2 drove down Choice Valley enroute to Fillmore at 7:00 A.M. An east wind was blowing. The high fog became a dense ground fog as we climbed out of Choice Valley Onto the north end of the Carissa plains, but the plains themselves were free of fog. It was quite cold on the Carissa plains especially after passing the Crossroads near Old Simmler and turning south on County Road. 

Traversal the length of the Carissa plains from this point. Heavy frost was on the grasses and puddles of water at the roadside, here frozen over. Two colored men were hunting rabbits, on California Valley development land near the northwest end of Soda Lake. They were wearing overcoats.

Some snow still lay at the roadside as we passed over the summit of the Coast Range from the Ojai Valley to the Ojai area. The mud at the roadsides, on top of Pine Mountain summit, was cemented and rutted with the tracks of people and their Automotive vehicles that had come up here to play in the snow following the storm that hit this area on 21-22-23 January.

While passing the south end of Soda Lake, on the Carissa plains, we watched an immature Golden Eagle make three unsuccessful dives into the shrub cover that rings the flat country about the edge of Soda Lake. This young eagle showed much white in flight and when first seen by us was sitting on a fence post about two hundred yards east of the roadway over which we were passing. Upon seeing this eagle fly.
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Eben B. McMillan  
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from the post on which it perched and gliding about twenty feet at altitude, slow its flight, and attempt to hover above a spot briefly, and then drop into the shrub cover that here consists of the plant Atriplex spinifera and averages about thirty inches high.

Seeing that this young eagle appeared quite crude in its hunting process we stopped the auto and were about to go over to see if it had captured anything in this drop when the eagle flew up out of the shrub, moved on about two hundred feet, and then repeated the former sequence. After remaining in the shrub cover for about two minutes this young eagle repeated this performance once more before returning to another fence post and perching.

Jack Rabbits are very plentiful about the shores of Soda Lake and remain in this shrub cover throughout the daylight hours. This gives them a measure of protection from Eagles and other predators. It seemed apparent thus this young eagle had not yet become proficient in the art of the chase whereby it could capture its prey with a reasonable amount of effort. I think this is a situation that arises when the young Eagle, that has been subsidized in its hunting efforts, up to now, by the parent Eagles, is now thrown onto its own resources by the parent birds and will go through a very critical period before it develops hunting habits of a more successful nature. I mention this as it would pertain to the same situation in Condor development. I feel quite
California Condor

Eben Brehm

February 1964

Sure that the young Condor that came in and landed in the sand of the San Juan River, about one mile north of the La Panza Bridge, on 1 June 1963 was in somewhat the same predicament as was this young Golden Eagle. Probably the young Condor had somewhat the advantage of the young Eagle due to its not having to resort to the chase to procure its food, but nevertheless it would expect this to be the more difficult of all experiences that any Condor, or Eagle, would endure throughout its lifetime.

Rudnick Trust is feeding its cattle on the extreme south end of the Carissa Plains. The feed is all gone from the hills and cattle look bad. Two men were scattering hay on the ground while the cattle came running, and bawling, for the feed. This condition appears to hold quite true throughout the Temblor and Coyama Valley areas as well as everywhere on the west side of the San Joaquin Valley north from Maricopa to Coalinga and west to the flat western slopes of the Coast Range that confront the ocean.

At 9:30 a.m. we stopped at the Ojai Station of the U.S. Forest Service and were told by the young girl in the office that Mr. Jack Parkinson was not well and would not be in the Office today.

At 10:15 a.m. we stopped at the home of Jack Gains and found him home. He told us about having spent the night in the Sespe area and had only returned late this morning. He gave us no reason for his being kept out all night in the Sespe nor did we show any interest in the matter. Mr. Gains had prepared forms in quadruplicate that we signed, one of which was given to us as
California Condor  
Eben M. McMillan

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Our copy and permit with which we can enter the Sespe wildlife area in the process of our Condor Study.

Jack Gains also told us of having seen 19 Condor on Hopper Mountain the day before yesterday. This would be on 30 January 1964. Mr. Gains said he was on Hopper Mountain that day and had gotten stuck. It had snowed considerably there, he said. First he saw seven or eight Condor together. He continued to see Condor throughout the day. At one time he saw fourteen Condor in one place over Hopper Mountain and later looked north towards Whittaker Peak and saw five more Condor that were seen at the same time as the 14 previous Condor were still in sight.

Jack Gains also told us that Mr. Buchanan, the President of the National Audubon Society, was coming tomorrow to Los Angeles to attend a meeting after which he was to fly back east immediately. Mr. Gains stated that Mr. Buchanan intended to return to the west again in the near future, but that he had to go back just now to some meeting in the east and therefore could not get around the area. Mr. Gains said he had gotten this information from Mr. Paul Howard who had been at some meeting nearby and being in the general area had thought "I'll just drop by and pay the GAINES a visit. This was about a week ago that Mr. Howard had stopped by and visited with Jack Gains; and given Mr. Gains this information.

Jack Gains, in answer to Ian's query if Mr. William Hansen, supervisor of Los Padres National Forest, had ever been on the Sespe wildlife area stated that with the exception of a brief "show me" trip through the section when he first came, Mr. Hansen has never been on the area.

Mr. Gains also stated that the Sespe Corridor into the Sespe wildlife...
We stopped in Fillmore for gasoline at the Union Oil Station on the crossroads where the highway from Moorpark meets with Highway 126. The young fellow who attended to us told us of having been on duty last evening when a bandit entered the station and held him up at gunpoint, demanding the contents of the cash register. The bandit thinking this young fellow to be too slow fired five shots at his feet to urge him on. When apprehended some hours later it was found that this bandit was a local person who had worked on a nearby ranch. This is only brought out to show that irresponsible people not only shoot at California Condor but will also shoot at people to scare them.

Picking up the ranch keys from the elder Mrs. Percy in Fillmore we drove up Harper Canyon into Tom's Canyon and over the bridge to Percy Ranch. Ruth Percy was at the Percy home by herself while Eugene and some Stephan were working cattle at the Bear Tree corral. After visiting with Mrs. Percy briefly we drove on up to Bear Tree corral and there met Eugene and Stephan Percy who were brandishing calves. Eugene Percy said he had seen four condor last Saturday, January 25. We had seen no condor since that time. Eugene also said he had received about three and one-half inches of rain during the Storm of 21-22-23 January. The grass had improved since we were here last although it has along way to insure ample forage throughout the summer.

In order to check numbers of condor now in relation to the population that frequented this area when Carl Borden did his work here on the Percy Ranch, from 1946 up until 1950, for later, and in that Borden in most of these experiments used bait of one sort or another, we now pursue bait.
California Condor

Eben McMillan

1 February 1964

One sheep carcass (Go Pound lamb) and two Jackrabbit carcasses were thrown out on the ridge between Soda Creek drainage and Sulphur Creek drainage, the sheep as a spot, where the end of vehicle navigation occurs on this ridge and the two Jack Rabbits scattered as hundred-yard intervals along this ridge. After this we retired to our campground in Sulphur Canyon and set up camp. This by 2:00 P.M.

Two Ravens flew across Sulphur Canyon, high from the east, and circled, calling, above the upper sheep carcass at 2:25 P.M. They soon left westward.

More ravens circled carcasses at 2:40 P.M.

Two Golden Eagle circled above North Hopper Mountain at 2:45 P.M., one of which was an immature bird. This bird had long patches of white under outer third of wings. See below.

These Eagles, after playing on the wind above North Hopper Mt. flew on northward after 3:16 P.M.

No large birds in sight at 3:00 P.M.

Two Golden Eagle and one Raven show up and circle above the carcass of the sheep at 3:05 P.M., and an adult Condor comes up above ridge due north of our camp in the saddle in which a dead big-cone spruce tree stands. This Condor could be seen through this saddle but was probably three-quarter-mile from us. After circling for two minutes it moved off eastward, fast, and dipped behind the ridge out of view. At 3:10 P.M. the two Golden Eagles seen at 3:05 had gone. Two other Golden Eagle cross above us, high, heading Southeast.

At 3:25 P.M. was seen circling above the North-headwaters of Sulphur Creek.
I moved across a small waste that a could better view this condor and let it out of my sight for about twenty seconds. I could not locate it again. Jan was on the mountain face apparently somewhat directly under this condor. He failed to see it. This is not uncommon when condor fly directly over even well qualified observers. This was about 4:20 P.M.

I returned to camp at 4:50 P.M. Saw great numbers of Robin flying into the Coffee-Berry thickets in lower reaches of Sulphur Canyon. I also saw good numbers of Robin (100+) feeding on the grasslands near the road that goes from the top of Sulphur-Soda ridge to our camp. Most of these Robin came down from the top of Hopkins mountain as though they had flown over from the Sespe side.

It was a clear-warm, calm evening.
California Condor  
Eden McMillan  
2 February 1964

It remained warm during the night until past, but strong gusts of wind, from a westward direction, blew at times. After sunrise an east wind commenced blowing moderately. It was very hazy.

Two Ravens showed up, circling a long ridge where sheep and rabbits had been left last evening. From all appearance, at a distance, the carcasses of the sheep or the two Jackrabbits we put out on Sulphur-soda ridge had not been molested. The raven came at 7:45 A.M. and continued to call and fly up and down the ridge west of us.

At 8:17 A.M., a Golden Eagle, visibly buffeted by the east wind that was becoming stronger now, flew northward along the upper third of Hopper Mountain and passed on through saddle that connects Hopper Mountain with ridge north of Sulphur Creek drainage.

We left our camp at 8:15 A.M. and drove towards Castaic Junction where we were to meet Carl Buchheister and Bill Goodall at 11:00 A.M. As we rounded the point below Tracy Ranch, and below Castle Craggs, we looked back with the spotting scope and binoculars but could make out no large birds about Hopper Mountain. This at 9:20 A.M.

Arriving at Castaic Junction at 10:15 A.M. We filled up with gas at the Standard Oil Co. Service Station there. The attendant who served us was a lad of about 20 years old who had been born and raised in the Castaic area but had never seen Condor, although he said that he would very much like to see one. According to him, his father used to see Condor quite frequently many years ago when he worked, driving trucks, for the Newhall Oil Company. His father had not seen Condor in recent years. When I mentioned the possibility that Condor were probably all gone, he said NO! That there were still Condor living around Pits. That they were doing—.
California Condor

Eben McMillan

2 February 1964

A good job of protecting them and that some still remain.

At 11:15 A.M. we met Carl Buchheister and Bill Goodall who had been waiting in Lot across the highway from us for an hour. We immediately loaded Carl’s dunnage into our pickup and with him accompanying us we were on our way.

We visited the Dead pit of Newhall land and cattle feed Lot, near Castaic Junction, but saw not one bird about. We then drove westward to the mouth of Hopper Canyon and up Percy Road to the point below Castle Crag, that overlooks the Soda Creek drainage and the south and east slopes of Hopper Mountain, where we stopped for lunch.

As we lunched, at 12:45 P.M. an adult condor was seen flying NE up Hopper Canyon from the way of Hutton Peak. As this condor came even with us it veered from its course and directly over us about 300 yards high and drifted, quartering into the stiff east wind that was now blowing, along the SW ridge of Soda Creek, and was lost from sight as it passed along upper drainage of Soda Creek.

Finishing lunch we drove to Percy Ranch, seeing several deer on the way, and there talked with Mr. and Mrs. Percy. Mr. Percy then drove us to the top of Hopper Mountain in his Jeep. Along the crest of Hopper Mountain the east wind was blowing a gale that restricted our activities to a certain degree, it being quite cold and strong enough whereby one had difficulty standing against its force.

At 3:10 P.M. an adult condor was seen floating SW from the direction of upper Hopper Canyon and passed by to our eastward about one-half mile and continued drifting fast, on the strong wind until out of sight behind the SW ridge of Hopper Mountain.
This condor was moving at an elevation about equal to the top one-third line on Hopper Mountain.

At 3:15 p.m. an adult was observed passing northward, below our level and out to our eastward about one-half mile. As this bird passed Hopper Mountain it swung more northwesterly and joined another adult condor at the east of Leffords lookout about 400 yards. These two condors then sailed into the strong east wind and soon passed from sight behind ridge and into the Grit River drainage.

We spent some time at the forks of Percy Hopper Mountain and Hule Canyon, roads acquainting me, Buchheister, with landmarks about the area and showing him developments that could influence condor. Mr. Percy gave Carl Buchheister a general history of the area, he, Mr. Percy being, having been in this area in the ranching business more than fifty years.

The east wind, blowing so strong, we returned to Bear Tree Camps where we had left our pickup. Thanked Mr. Percy for his generous help in transporting us up the mountain in his jeep, then drove to Sulphur Creek and went into camp.

A roaring fire was kindled, much activity went on in the process of gathering firewood—setting up a cot and bed for Carl Buchheister, cooking our supper and other industries in preparation for a cold, windy, night. While this was all going on four condors came from the south and circled above the sheep carcass we had put out this morning before leaving for Cassatie Junction. This was in addition to the one we had put out yesterday afternoon and was placed below where the road passes from Soda Creek to Sulphur Creek and was on the soda—sulphur ridge about on a level with our camp. Several more jackrabbits had been thrown out along this ridge also.
After circling this lower sheep carcass for several minutes the four condor would alternate between alighting on the ground near it or hovering in the air above it. The east wind blowing up out of the sulphur canyon, created updrafts near the carcass on which the condor could remain nearly motionless for minutes at a time before going higher or forward or backward. When these birds would drop to the ground, from heights of from 200 to 100 feet, above the ground, where they would be waiting awry, they would slowly let down at perhaps a foot a second and land on the ground with little or no more than the average body weight on their legs. When they wanted to arise into the air again, after standing and looking for a few minutes at the sheep carcass, they merely spread their wings and gently raised from the ground with no flapping of wings. I doubt that I have ever observed another species of bird that could better control itself and maintain stability in a stiff wind.

At sunset we thought one of the four condor, at the lower sheep carcass this evening, fed on the body of a Jackrabbit that lay about thirty feet south of the sheep carcass. This was due to observing a condor dropping its head to the ground several times as it stood above the Rabbit carcass.

At 5:15 p.m. all four of the condor mentioned above flew out to the northward alternately at about 200 yard intervals. The last one passed out of sight at 5:18 p.m. through the pass to the north of our camp. This was about 5 to 7 minutes after sunset.

A fierce east wind blew throughout the night. It was cold.
At 6:25 a.m., Two Ravens were hovering above the upper sheep carcass and calling. At 6:35 a.m., just as the sun was showing over the eastern horizon, from where my bed was rolled about two hundred feet above our campsite, two Condor were seen hovering about one hundred feet above the lower sheep carcass. How long before this time they had arrived I have no idea, for I had not looked in that direction before. Not thinking there would be a chance that Condor would be on the wing that early, a strong east wind was still blowing as it had done throughout the night. It was also quite cold but not enough so that ice could form. Except for the two Ravens, no other birds were about at sunrise besides the two Condor.

The two Condor and two Ravens were hovering over the area where the lower sheep carcass lay at 7:30 a.m. When an adult Golden Eagle dove down from the top of Hopper Mountain, on closed wings, and alighted on the lower sheep carcass and commenced eating of it. Four more Ravens came in and joined the other birds about this carcass soon after the Golden Eagle came. The Condor were still hovering about over this carcass while the eagle fed. Some of the Ravens were on the ground trying to filch a few bits of mutton when the eagle was not looking. This Eagle was an adult.

One adult Condor flew northward over our camp, low, and lit in dead Big and Spruce tree three hundred yards north of our camp. Six Condor were on the lower sheep carcass at 8:30 a.m., four of which were on the ground and two in the air above. The Eagle had gone. The four Condor and about Twelve Raven that were all on the ground flapped and fought over the carcass.
Another adult Golden Eagle came in and landed on the lower sheep carcass at 8:15 a.m. Most of the condor and raven about this carcass flew into the air when this eagle arrived. Condors came and went from the lower sheep carcass, as also did the raven and condor. At one time six condor worked their way northward along the upper trail that traverses along the top third of Hopper Mountain, about 200 yards below the summit. One of these condor sat on the point that sticks out from the central ridge that goes up the east face of Hopper Mountain from the Sulphur Creek drainage. This bird had no more than alighted than three other condor sat about fifty feet above it and immediately after alighting the last three condor commenced pecking at one another, or sort of pushing their heads together, and performing what might be termed a pecking party. This went on for about three minutes when all four of these condor flew up and joined the other two condor that had remained hovering about two-hundred feet above the air. Two of these six condor then flew down near our camp and circling over towards the big-cone spruce tree in which an adult condor had been perched for some time. This perching condor from the tree by flying towards it. When the perched condor left the tree all three condor played about over our camp chasing one another in the air.

It should be strictly understood that at no time during all of our observations on condor, this trip, have we made any attempt to conceal ourselves or to limit our activities. A good sized campfire has been burning at our camp during all of the time that the condor -
activities were carried on. During several occasions occurred when several condor would come and circle directly over our camp. I exposed two rolls, or 38 exposures of 35mm film on condor in flight over our camp. A 400 mm lens was mounted on a gunstock for this purpose and when pointed at the condor to photograph them in flight caused no unusual reaction from the birds.

At 9:40 a.m. an immature condor was seen circling to the north of the ridge, north of our camp. This bird was seen on several occasions to the north of this ridge and circling above the north end of Hopper mountain, but never did it come to join the other condor that fed around the lower sheep carcass. At 9:50 a.m., while the above mentioned immature condor was still circling to the north of Hopper mountain, nine condor were about the lower sheep carcass, one of which was a young ringed necked condor. This young condor seemed to enjoy unusual freedom among the other condor when feeding. At one time six adult condor and this immature ringed-necked condor were all around the lower sheep carcass together. When this ringed-necked immature fed on the carcass how of the adult condor attacked it; but when one of the adult condor fed on the carcass other adult condor would jump at it in a menacing way. Once when a golden eagle came in and lit on the carcass it flew down towards the young ring-necked condor that stood about six feet below. The young condor did not vigorously fly away, and even moved towards the.
Golden Eagle. When the young condor came within one-foot of the
Eagle, the Eagle flew away. I saw adult condor retreat from the
advances of the Golden Eagle on several occasions.

While this feeding was going on some Raven, or Condor, and
at times the Golden Eagle hovered in the air over the sheep carcasses,
while other birds fed. On one occasion an adult Condor and
the ringed-neck bird were slowly lowering themselves from above
to alight near the lower sheep carcasses. As they let themselves
down that were also hovering nearby made several
dives at the condors from above, striking the tail of the
young ringed-neck condor several times, it so appeared. After the
young condor lit on the ground about four feet below the sheep
carcass several ravens dove at its head. The young condor would
drop its head quickly each time a Raven would dive at it.

Carl Buchholzer, Jan and I watched this feeding operation
from an open hillside about 100 ft. to the Southwest of
our camp. We were in plain sight of the condor, and other birds,
while they were feeding on the ground, and when in the air, they
were likewise always in sight unless they moved downward
and got behind the large live oak trees directly below our
Camp.

At 10:10 A.M., the immature ring-necked condor flew up from
among the other condor, that were feeding on the lower sheep carcass,
and moved over above our camp, where it circled about for
about five minutes, seeming to be rather inquisitive as it watched
us move about, we assumed this bird to be about two months
old. This could be wrong - it showed dull, spotted white,
California Condor  Eben McMillen  3 February 1964

under its wings. Its head was thin, small, and black except for a short ring of about two inches at the base of its neck where the bare head emerges from the neck feathers. When this immature condor left our camp area it returned and landed on ground by other condors, and ravens, that were feeding on the lower sheep carcass.

The lower sheep carcass on which the condor had fed had been dragged downhill about 100 feet. The less remained of this sheep carcass the farther it continued to be dragged, and the more the condors fought over it.

A Golden Eagle came and dove at two condors that were hovering in the air about twenty feet above the sheep carcass. These dives were rather slow and did not seem to concern the condor much.

At 11:00 A.M. we left our camp in the pickup and drove to the top of the ridge above where the lower sheep carcass had been left. We had observed condors leaving the area of the sheep carcass as we were breaking camp and assumed all the birds had flown above Hopper Mountain, or some out of sight northward.

Stopping the pickup on the brow of the ridge we walked down to look over the brow of the hill to where the sheep carcass had been dragged in order that we might inspect what was left of the sheep carcass. Looking over the brow of this ridge we saw three adult and the imm. Ring-necked condor standing around the remains of this carcass which was now about sixty feet below where we stood. The condors saw us as we looked over the brow of the ridge, but remained about the carcass for about two minutes before they leisurely flew up into the air and circled above us for two or three minutes before doing —
up to join other condors that were now circling and lightening near the other sheep carcass that was put out up the ridge at the limit of vehicular traffic.

We inspected the remains of the lower sheep carcass. No sign remained of the jackrabbit we had left near this place. The sheep carcass was now limited to hide and bones. The bones were all outside of the hide with the exception of the leg bones from the knuckles and hocks out towards the hoofs. The skull and neck were intact, the nose having been eaten, and the lips. Everything else edible was missing. Some of the smaller ribs had been broken and were missing. A secondary wing feather from a condor was found near the carcass.

It was while discussing the manner in which the condor, raven, and eagle had cleaned this sheep carcass and the evident discourement these condors showed towards us while feeding that we came upon the idea of National Audubon Society leasing the Percy property instead of having it leased to hunting interests as is the case now. Mr. Buchheister said he would take the matter up with Mr. Percy as we passed his ranch home on the way out. This we did. Mr. Eugene Percy, more appearing opposed to the idea stated that he would have to take the matter up with his wife before he could give any firm commitment. We agreed to call Mr. Percy tomorrow evening to see what his thinking would be at that time. Looking back from the point under Castle Crags, as we left the Percy ranch at 1:00 P.M., we saw condor still circling above the place where the upper sheep carcass—
had been left.

We returned the gate keys to the elder Percy, in Fillmore, who detained us by showing us motion pictures of gold mining operations, after which we drove home, via Cuyama Valley, Carissa Plains, Bitterwater and at my place at dusk. Carl Buchheister went with Jim to spend the night at his home.
Today I talked with Nick Lewis who has ranch properties on west side of Carissa Plains at headwaters of the San Juan River and in Cholame Valley to the East of the Cholame Rancho headwaters about five miles. Both of these areas are potential condor feeding grounds. To my question as to whether he had seen condor of late Nick Lewis answered that the only condor he had seen in recent years were several (more than one) that he believed feeding on a dead calf about one-half mile northwest of the La Panza Ranch and just north of the Cammatica Road. Mr. Lewis saw condor here on two consecutive days, about two years ago.

This is important evidence in that several different people saw condor here about two years ago. I am quite sure this incident occurred about one year ago when Mr. Zimmerman got two calves that had died at this place and left the carcasses. Mr. Zimmerman saw condor here on this occasion as did Paul Forborn and others. It merely points up the fact that when condor are around, people recognize them. This is not necessarily the case if condor are flying by a given area, for even though condor flew over the highway, that passes the La Panza Ranch, quite commonly last spring when sheep were in the Navajo Canyon and San Juan River areas, very few people, other than Tom and I ever saw them.
Mr. Bruce Murray, director of National Audubon Society's wildlife films, who with Mrs. Murray arrived at our home this evening having driven from Ventura today. They had stayed with John Tuft in Camarillo last night.

Mr. Murray said that yesterday, 20th he and Mrs. Murray had gone with John Tuft to the Cow Springs area in the Sespe Valley and had seen three condors flying over the white cliffs to the east of the road. About over the white cliffs peak area, it would seem to me from the description Mr. Murray gave me, he thought they were between where the old cabin is at squaw flat and the oil well site on the knoll before road dips into Cow Springs drainage, when they saw the three condors circling for some minutes over the white cliffs to the east of the road. Mr. Murray thought all three condors had white under their wings and colored heads. This was in the afternoon.
I drove to La Panza Ranch this afternoon. Julie Marting, who had been working cattle all day up the river, told me that the temperature had been down to 16 degrees at the La Panza Ranch buildings the last two mornings and that things were looking pretty bad for the cattle. Julie said she had seen on the plains near the mouth of Bitterwater Valley and at the New Well. He said he had seen no condor in that area.

Budd Zimmermann, who works for Julie Marting on La Panza Ranch, told me of seeing five condors at 3:00 P.M. on January 30, 1964 about one mile below the La Panza Camp on the San Juan River. This would place the area where these birds were seen to be on San Juan River between where Haystack Canyon enters the river and the camp and corrals where Pilitas Canyon enters the San Juan River. Budd said three of these five condors were in the air, circling while two were on the ground. He thought there must have been something dead near where the condors were but did not stop to investigate.

John Bowman, whom I visited at his home at Old La Panza, said he had seen nothing resembling condor for a long time. He said that his wife, alone, pays attention to things like that but that he seldom sees what kind of birds are around. 

I drove home via, the Piliatas and San Juan River.
California Condor  Eden McMullin  9 February 1964

The shepherd caring for a flock of Dake martin sheep that are being pastured to the NE of the Kern County Road at the mouth of Bitterwater Canyon. This border told me that a few more days would see all the available forage gone in this area and where the sheep would be moved would be a problem in that alfalfa fields were now being irrigated and would not stand sheep pasturing on them and hay selling at forty-five dollars per ton thus making hay too expensive to feed the sheep. This border had seen no condor. In fact he had never seen a condor although he had worked on the Carissa plains herding sheep one Summer, and had worked at the La Panza Ranch for a time. He knew what condor were, but had never seen them having heard about condor by word of mouth. Two dead sheep were to be seen from his mobile camp house.

A young Basque shepherd, who had been in the United States two years, was herding a large flock of ewes and lambs to the west of highway 93 about two miles north of Taft, Kern County, told me of two sheep carcasses in the brush near his camp that had died within the last four days and nothing had fed on them yet. This shepherd knew condor, having seen them last September in the Coyama Valley where he had herded sheep on stubble lands of a Mr. Calhoun. The Coyama is the only place this man had seen condor. His, patron, employer is Leonard Bedard. The green forage in this area, among the aridness shreds, is much better than is the case to the north of this location.

Two golden eagle were seen circling southeast of San Eugenio Ranch headquarters about one mile near the skyline at 11:30 AM, Walter Slaytor, former at San Eugenio Ranch, had seen no —
california condor

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Eben McMillan

Condor. This is rather unusual in that Mr. Slaytor said that many of the cattle under his care had been dying during the last month. Most of the adult cattle that had died were heifers having their first calf. Many of these heifers had died in the process of giving birth to calves only to have the newborn calves die in the process. Walter Slaytor told me, leaving his arm in a gesture to point out the area to the south and west of San Emigdio Canyon, "There are dead cattle scattered all through those hills." Mr. Slaytor, in an attempt to better care for these cattle had, just the last few days, moved all heifers that had not yet calved onto a field on the flats, that lies between the mouth of San Emigdio Canyon and Pinto Canyon to the east and extends out onto the flat to highway 33. Slaytor feels he can watch the heifers closer in this smaller field.

I must get back to this area as soon as possible for it seems incredible that condor would not come to this source of food. I think Slaytor must have been overlooking condor here. If this is the case, condor should follow this herd of calving heifers down to the field on the flats where they are now held. Mr. Slaytor said he had about five hundred heifers in this field on the flat now and thought they should all calve within the next six weeks. This should furnish ample food for condor.

Green forage grasses are in good shape on the San Emigdio ranch. Damp fogs that persisted through the last two months prevented the soil from drying out and held minimum temperatures above the freezing point. This fog no doubt inhibited the movement of condor in areas where it prevailed throughout the daylight hours for weeks on end, but Mr. Slaytor thought that enough heifers and calves-
California Condor. — Eben McMillan
9 February 1964

I met Walter Feejosh, one of the
Foreman
old Tejon Headquarters. He had seen no Condor this winter. Mr.
Feejosh attributed the ample green flourish on the Tejon Lowlands to the
presence of fog, also. Even at the elevation of the old
Tejon Headquarters, he said fog had persisted for weeks on end,
with no let-up this winter, according to Feujosh, higher
elevations were too cold for grass to grow resulting in a
shortage of forage there.

Gib McKensie had seen no Condor since observing the group
of 24 birds on the flats at mouth of Pastoria Canyon on 26 October
1963. Gib told me that most all culves had been dropped on the Tejon
Ranch and that condor food was not as plentiful as had been the case
last fall. He said that a man who stays on his father's place, above
the Tejon Ranch in a south fork of Tejon Canyon, had seen two Condor
about two weeks ago. Mr. McKensie claims I have seen Buzzards killed by Poison.

On the road going up Tejon Canyon, near the forles of Chanae Canyon,
I met Bill Koutnik who is a member of the group & who rents
area five for hunting purposes from Tejon Ranch. Mr. Koutnik comes
from 1622 Highland Oaks, Arcadia, California and works for Aero-Jet General.

He said most all members of
the Association who hunt and lease area 5 of Tejon Ranch work for Aero-Jet General. KOUTNIK said that most all members of
area 5 association are very well pleased with circumstances surrounding their
lease and that a waiting list of 19 Names is now on file in the event a
vacancy occurs whereby new members can be taken into the group.

Bill Koutnik stated that according to their agreement with Tejon Ranch —
that no more than fifteen Deer could be killed and that a maximum of Eight hunters is all that would be allowed in the field on any given day. This group have a secretary who keeps record of all game killed. All game animals can be shot in Open Season. Koutnik said considerate hounds would be taken over five by his group and he thought about two Quail had been taken. He did say that his figures of Take could be in error for their secretary had not yet compiled the list for the 1963 hunting season and that his figure of 200 Quail taken was only an estimate. Mr. Koutnik was prepared to hunt after dark as his gun was equipped with a spotlight. Evidently Predator hunting is allowed by the Tejon Company throughout the year or else he is just taking this liberty upon himself.

I gathered from Bill Koutnik’s conversation that the instructions given them to go by in hunting on area five of Tejon Ranch was quite detailed as he said the list of these instructions comprised about forty written pages of print. Evidently mention is made in these instructions as to what can be shot and what cannot be shot, for he (Mr. Koutnik) in answer to my question as to if he had seen any Eagles brought a detailed description of how he had seen an Eagle approach the place where he was sitting and after watching the bird for some time the eagle had flown off its way. Had he not been instructed against shooting at certain objects I feel sure he would have mentioned shooting at the eagle. He did say that a Kenny Krebs, whom he sees in the area of area 5 quite regularly and whose camp he mentioned visiting, did have the foot of a large bird that had been found dead in Tejon Canyon. Koutnik thought from the size of the foot and the length of the talons that this was the foot of an Eagle.

Koutnik had spent yesterday and today on area 5. Two other members of his group had been there also over the weekend. All had been repairing a cabin that is situated on area 5 and which the group use as an —
Cahtorwra Cowdery Ebeu Premillan 1 February 1964

Overnight camping place.

I have no doubt that Bill Kournik and his group can be educated towards the preservation of condor and other large birds of prey. He mentioned that their group does not allow practices or targets, shooting other than in the immediate area surrounding their camp. This, of course, to discourage frightening game as well as the protection of themselves taken in the field. Were someone to approach these people, as well as all other hunting groups, on Tejon Ranch property, with a well directed circular of information relative to the need to protect all large birds I feel sure it would be met with a reasonable amount of appreciation from these people. Either the Tejon Ranch company should be approached to do this through their wildlife representative or some organization (like the national hunting society) should take this matter up and see that it is done.

I parted company with Bill Kournik following a display he put on for me in calling predatory mammals in so that he can shoot them. We had two separate objects with which he did the calling. I must say his demonstration was most realistic and no doubt effective in those proper surroundings. It was dusk, or like dusk, when he left driving down Tejon Canyon on his way to his home in Arcadia.

I camped for the night, late, on the flats at the mouth of Pastoria Canyon, on Tejon Ranch property. It was cold.

I overlooked mentioning that Bill Kournik had also told me of seeing the carcass of a good sized buck deer yesterday, that was lying on a slope of the mountain, well above the hunting camp on Area 5 of Tejon Ranch, that had not been eaten by predators. He said that the eyes were gone but that otherwise it was just as it fell. Cold temperatures had preserved it well. He thought it had been there for some time.
I was up at 6:30 A.M. It was quite cold and a dull smog covered the floor of the valley. I drove to Tejon Oil fields of Standard Oil Company and met Mr. L. Davis who alternates with Joe Brown in coming for the machinery at this site for Standard Oil Co. Mr. Davis told me that Joe Brown would be on the job tomorrow.

L. Davis knows Condors well. He has lived for 24 years on the west side of highway 79 at the mouth of Grapevine Canyon. He told me that he has seen Condor many times in last years, but never more than eleven or twelve birds at one time. Many times he has seen Condor circling above the mouth of Grapevine Canyon. He couldn't say whether Condor were more or less common now than in times past. He mentioned not paying much attention to Condor in the past, but that he would keep watch for them now.

The Tejon Ranch Cowboys were moving cattle from one field to another, in the area west of the main Ranch headquarters in Tejon Canyon. One of the Cowboys with whom I talked told me that all the calves had been dropped now and that branding would commence next week.

Mrs. Jack Jantzen said that Jack had left no word of seeing any Condor lately, but that three Turkey Vultures had spent the night in the Tamarack trees near her home the night before last. She said that many cattle had died during December and January, and earlier on the Tejon property looked after by Jack, but that he had seen no condor.

I drove to White Wolf, northeast of Atvin and cooked my breakfast. It was clear, warm and calm there. Jack Jantzen came with a truck to haul away some Bulls from the Corrals at White Wolf.
California Condor  Eben McMillan  10 February 1964

verified the statements given me by his wife that he had seen no
Condor this winter.

a heavy fall of SMOG covered the San Joaquin Valley floor.

I drove to Caliente at 10:30 A.M. Mr. Lawrence Brown, who runs the
General Store there had heard of no one seeing Condor this winter.

a Mr. William Peterson came to the Caliente Store while I was there.

He works for Kenneth McBane on a ranch east of Bemis near the mouth
of Caliente Creek. He said that Condor have come to the Bemis area
quite regularly in years past but that he has not seen them there for
at least a year.

Lawrence Ralls came into Caliente Store at 11:30 A.M. He
has a ranch up-river from Caliente in the Lion Trail grade area.
He also works on the County road crew in the Caliente Creek area.

Thought he might have seen a Condor off the Lion Trail grade about a
week ago, but when I told him that Condor only have white under
the wings decided it was an immature Golden Eagle for it had
white, above at the base of its tail.

Mr. Ralls did feel sure that in 1942 he saw great numbers
of Condor feeding on calves that had been killed by dogs in
the Old Town area of Tehachapi Valley. This location is about
two miles west of the present town of Tehachapi. He said that
dogs would come every night and kill Two or three calves
from a herd he was feeding there. Condor would come during the day to feed on these calves. When Ralls would be going
out to feed the cattle he would come upon great numbers of
Condor feeding on the dead calves that had usually been
chased into a Canyon by the dogs before being killed —
As these condors dashed about, setting into the air, after being surprised by Mr. Ralls sudden approach, they would fill the sky. He thought there would have been well over a hundred of them. He said that on several occasions he had tried to ride up suddenly on horseback and hope one of these condors, but they always were able to set elevation quick enough to get out of his way.

There is little doubt but that these were condors that Mr. Ralls saw in 1942. He established the date and year by remembering that the second world war had just started when he went to work on this ranch in the Tehachapi Valley, and that the owner of the ranch got him deferred for a year, after which he had to go to the service via the draft. Thus he places the date of this condor observation sometime in 1942 and went into service in 1943.

As to the number of condors, it is quite possible that the flock of 40 plus birds that Perry Sprague was reported to have seen on the Tejon Ranch (Kefauver Condor Report) about this same time could have been feeding in the Tehachapi Valley in 1942 when Mr. Ralls saw them. I have seen 18 condors humbly leaving a steer carcass and being very hard to count. I have no doubt that 42 or so condors, all setting into the air, together, could easily give the impression of being more than 100 birds, and of course, turkey vultures could have been mixed up in the melee.

I stopped at the office of Fish and Game Warden, Clayton, in Bakersfield. His only knowledge of condors was that of the warden from the Mr. Fines area who had sent his report to Dave Selleck, in Fresno, and reached us this way already. Mr. Jack Root, Calif. Fish and Game warden stationed...
California condor. Eben McMillan
10 February 1961

At Kernville, Calif., who was in Mr. Clinton's office when I dropped in, stated he had seen six condors over Isabella Lake last Wednesday. When I commenced to write this observation down, Mr. Root changed his mind and said it could not have been Wednesday for he was at another location on that date. He finally thought it was about 1 February that he saw the six condors near Stouch Gulch on the west side of Isabella Lake. I do not put too much credence on this observation for Mr. Root first mentioned Wednesday as though he were sure of its date. Then when he was aware that a record was being made of this matter, his memory failed him.

I arrived at the winter field office of Mr. Ben Easley. Mr. Easley manages the rodent-prevent and pest-control program of the Kern County Agricultural Commissioner's Office. He was not in when I arrived, but came in from overseeing a further poisoning operation about 1:30 P.M. He said that pests were not important in his operations during the winter months, but that the spring and summer seasons were his most active seasons. These are the periods when squirrel poison and insect control programs are carried out. This is also the period when Ben Easley hires crews of men, and probably attends to the wants of many more people than is the case during the fall and summer months.

Ben Easley said that rodent control programs were in force both during the fall and after the Margaret Brown condor was found. That at the time Mrs. Dorothy Albritt found this dead condor that a Mr. George Moore, of Kern County California, was his representative in overseeing the crew that was applying compound 1080 poison on potted barley. It was Mr. Moore's job to see that all...
poisoned grain used in this Squirrel Poisoning Campaign was weighed out to the persons who applied this 1080 material from horseback, and to see that all such poison was weighed before it was the completion of the job or at the end of the day's work. This was done in order to prevent any Compound 1080 treated grain falling into the hands of persons who might use it at their own discretion.

Nevertheless, Mr. Easley did say that there are chances that some Compound treated 1080 poison grain can fall into the hands of persons other than representatives of his office. He mentioned one instance where one of the persons that was applying poison grain under the supervision of his man, made several requests for poison on the grounds that in a Canyon where he had been scattering the poison, great numbers of squirrels were making it necessary that he put out unusual quantities of poison. Upon investigation by Mr. Easley's representative, it was found that this person was storing this poisoned grain in a heap out of sight from others of the poison crew in the hope that he would not be detected of such practice and that he would return at another time when no one was about, to set this poisoned grain that he might use it at his own discretion.

Mr. Easley also informed me that he had taken as many as 80 grains of Compound 1080 treated barley from the pouches of one dead squirrel. That the State of California has set a tentative maximum
of one ounce of Compound 1080 to one hundred pounds of grain when mixing squirrel poison. Pocket gopher poison can be treated at two ounces per one hundred pounds of grain.

Mr. Easley said that it was on the property belonging to Mrs. El. Tochini that is approximately two miles southwest of Granite Stilbon that is about 20 miles north by northeast of Bakersfield, Kern County, California, that the Margaret Brown Condor was found.

Mr. Ben Easley also informed me that his office has as many as six crews of squirrel poisoning persons going in Kern County at the same time. This usually in the months of May, June, and July and on occasions well up into September. In the summer months of 1956, one crew of men poisoned squirrels on the San Emigdio Ranch for sixty-four days. On one area of the San Emigdio Ranch property crews under Mr. Easley's supervision were applying as much as three hundred pounds of poisoned grain to an acre. That in the process of making a test on the eastern Galamini property west of McKittrick, Kern County, California, that a plot one-quarter mile long and one hundred fifty yards wide was treated with poisoned wheat that had been mixed with Compound 1080 at the rate of two ounces per hundred pounds of grain. Following this application sixty dead squirrels were found on top of the ground inside this test area. In a like area that had been treated with—
California condor: Eben H. McMillan

Grain that had been treated with Thallium Poison, no dead squirrels were found on the surface of the ground.

Ben Easley thinks Compound 1080 commenced being used as a mixture to poison squirrels in 1946. Mr. Easley again stated that his thinking regarding the death of the Margaret Brown Condor was that this bird had fed on young squirrels that had filled their pouches with this compound 1080 poisoned grain before dying. They being quite small the condor swallowed them whole. Mr. Easley thought the pouches of three or four young squirrels would hold enough poisoned grain to kill anything. 1080 poison that is. Easley thinks five grains of 1080 treated grain will kill a ground squirrel. He thinks 100 grains of 1080 treated grain would kill any warm blooded animal.

In referring to squirrels or ground squirrels, in the past, the species in mind has been Cistillus Bachei, California ground squirrel.

Ben Easley told me of seeing Twenty-Two Turkey Buzzards coming from Cottonwood trees near Old River, about 8 miles south of Bakersfield yesterday morning.
California Condor  Edward McMillan  10 February 1969

at 2:00 P.M. Today Jan and I met with Mr. William Hansen, the present Supervisor of Las Padres National Forest, in his office in Santa Barbara, California. Mr. Hansen had called us to this meeting.

Mr. Hansen came quickly to the point and the reason why he wanted to see us. It seems that, according to him, the local Santa Barbara Chapter of the Audubon Society and the Las Padres Chapter of the Sierra Club are strongly opposing the construction of a road along the Sierra Madre Ridge that would open this area to public use as well as making the fighting in this area more efficient, so Mr. Hansen says. These two organizations are using the argument that the Sequoia Condor Sanctuary, a very important facet in the preservation of Condors, would be nullified were this road to be constructed and the general public allowed in to use it. Mr. Hansen merely wanted a statement from us regarding our present findings relative to value of this sanctuary to Condor welfare. Of course he was told that, as yet, he had no definite findings on the association of this sanctuary to Condor welfare, and that until we completed the study he could not make a commitment in this regard.

Jan did mention that here Mr. Hansen to make a formal written request to us in this matter that it would be taken up with the director or directors of the study for their approval.

Mr. Hansen stated that he thought the lack of food to be the critical factor in the present welfare of condor,
A cold north wind was blowing, with cloud remains, from a storm front that had passed quickly through the area last night, hanging on the Temblor and adjoining mountain ranges as a drove down the Bitterwater Valley at 8:00 a.m. What grass remained along the route had been turned browner by the cold weather of the last few mornings. The shepherd with whom I had talked last Sunday at the mouth of the Bitterwater Valley had moved away. Another shepherd, herding a flock of sheep on the grassless plain, two miles southeast of Blackwells Corner near the roadside on highway 33 was burning the heads of Russian thistle that had lodged in a ditch, in order to warm himself, as I stopped to talk with him. He said he had been in this area two days with his flock of sheep. That his boss had to move the sheep from alfalfa fields near Modesto, California, in order that the farmers could commence irrigating their alfalfa. This man said that his boss, Antonio, had rented the pasture, he was now on, from Jake Martin. That, even though there was no forage plants on this bare plain, that he had nowhere else to go. Therefore the sheep would be held here and fed hay if necessary, to keep them alive, until rains come to bring in green feed. This shepherd knew nothing of condor and probably would never become interested in watching for them, so I let him act his borgire.

At 10:16 a.m. I arrived in the field, out on the flats, in front of the mouths of plioto and pliacto Canyons that are on the San Emidio Ranch about twenty miles south of Bakersfield, Kern County, California. It had been cold here also as was evidenced by grass that had been green when a was here last Sunday, and had now turned brown and withered to nothing. The north-
Windy was picking up soil from the freshly cultivated fields along highway 33 and carrying some towards the mountains as clouds of dust. Dark clouds over frazier and pines mountain masses appeared to be releasing some moisture, probably in the form of snow flurries.

I remained along the south boundary of this field the remainder of this day watching for condors that might be attracted to this area by the placental remains following birth of calves by several of the many heifers that have been left in this field to calve out so that better watch could be kept over them to minimize the deaths that had been occurring among these animals of late before they were moved out on the mountains into this field. Several of the heifers themselves had died in the process of giving birth to calves since being moved to this field and several calves had died while the heifer had survived in the process.

An intense sonic boom reverberated throughout the area at 11:00 A.M. from a high flying plane that left short contrails at a high altitude. A band of about thirty horses that had been feeding near where I was parked all dashed away excitedly following this sonic boom. As far as I could see, no cattle reacted to this explosive sound.

I watched a pigeon hawk sit on a post about one hundred feet from where I parked in the car. This hawk paid no attention to my movements, even when I got out of the car to adjust my telescope. This bird continued to watch the sky above it frequently as if expecting enemy action from above.
California Condor  Eben M. C. 13 February 1964

This hawk flew off towards the east at 11:53 a.m. after remaining on a post for twenty-eight minutes.

A Golden Eagle was seen circling above the flat near the mouth of Plieto Canyon at 11:55 a.m. After circling this area for some time this eagle flew northward about one-half mile and continued circling again over an area that was quickly covered with dry Russian thistle bushes. At 12:10 p.m. this eagle was joined by two more of its kind, all circled above this area that was now about one quarter mile north of where I was parked. Poor lighting conditions had prevented my establishing if any of these eagles were immature until 12:35 when the sun shone brightly and it was now possible to see that two of these birds were immature or had white at the base of their tails. I could not make out any white markings in their wings.

One of the immature eagles, of the three mentioned above, dove three times at the adult eagle, the adult eluded these dives by diving away downward, turning and twisting while in the dive. One immature eagle flew out northward until out of sight at 12:40 p.m. The other two eagles left eastward following the foothills at 12:42 p.m.

Joe Kinney, one of the San Emidio Ranch Cowboys, who had been inspecting the heifers in this field, came my way and stopped to talk at 1:10 p.m. He told me of three heifers that had died calving the last two days in this field that he had been watching. He also said that several heifers had lost their calves at birth here also within the last few days, Mr. Kinney and I discussed factors —
California Condor  
Eben McMillan  
13 February 1964

That might lead to the death of so many of the San Emigdio Ranch heifers when giving birth to their first calves as well as so many calves being born dead. Mr. Kinney thought the problem stemmed from the heifers having been too fat during the fall months. That the good grass that covered the hills of San Emigdio Ranch last fall had fattened the heifers whereby the embryos within the pregnant animals had over-developed whereby the calf, at time of birth, was too large to pass through the pelvic arch of the mother. Mr. Kinney related to me how he, and some helpers, had pulled on a calf with a truck to the point of pulling a leg off this calf's body and this not extracting the calf's body from the cow. He also mentioned having tried to push his hand inside the cow in order to feel what held another calf from coming out. In this effort he was prevented from getting his hand past the pelvic arch due to insufficient room. Even when the heifer would relax from straining he could still not force his hand between the calf's head and neck that were already protruding from the cow's vaginal opening.

Joe Kinney said he had seen no condor on the San Emigdio Ranch although he professed to be acquainted with this bird from having had one come and feed with a flock of Buzzards on the carcass of a dead cow, in 1957, at the Jordan Ranch that is located about five miles northwest of the town of Agoura, in extreme southeast Ventura County, California. This condor remained in the vicinity of this carcass, with the buzzards, for several days. Mr. and Mrs. Jordan, who owned this ranch at that time, were—
Known as "Fibber McGee" and "Molly," in the entertainment world, Mr. Kinney was managing this ranch for the Jordans at that time.

At 4:15 P.M. I drove to ranch headquarters of San Emigdio ranch. Eight Turkey Buzzards were circling above the tops of the Eucalyptus trees that line the driveway entering the ranch yard. These birds later settled in the top of one of these tall trees about sunset.

I met Smokey Snyder, another San Emigdio employee who had been working for the last two weeks in the mountain area south of the Ranch headquarters. He said these large birds can be seen most times during the day in the back country of the San Emigdio Property, he advised me to go into Plietito Canyon tomorrow and see if there were any condor there.

At dusk, an immature Golden Eagle was observed perched atop a Russian Thistle bush that had been turned topside-down. I stopped the car within one hundred feet of this Eagle and watched it for about a minute before it flew heavily, to the foothills one-quarter mile south and landed on a gentle slope of the hills. I drove on and camped for the night near the mouth of Plietito Canyon.
Up at 6:45 A.M. it was clear, calm and cold. Ice had formed on water seeping from a leaking pipe. I drove up ridge between Plieto and Plietiyo canyons. Red-tailed hawks were hunting over the open grassland. In the fork of Plietiyo Canyon the carcass of a dead cow was lying near the roadway. Investigation showed that nothing had fed from this carcass even though it was still in an edible state, due to the cold weather that had kept putrefaction to a minimum. Continuing over a low ridge into the west fork of Plietiyo Canyon I came upon the carcass of another cow with the remains of a dead calf lying about five feet behind it. From here I drove to a pass between Plietiyo and San Emigdio canyons that overlooks The Devils Kitchen area of San Emigdio Canyon and halted to cook my breakfast. Golden eagle were seen from time to time and Red-tailed hawks could be seen most of the time.

At 9:55 A.M. two adult condors came gliding in above the flat to the north of where I was located on set wings, coming from what appeared to be the west flank of Brush Mountain and the Blue Ridge area. Both were adult birds with no apparent defects in their plumage, crossing above the flat to my north, that is at the head of the west fork of Plietiyo Canyon and in which a barbed-wire holding corral is located. These condors then circled for several minutes above the low range of hills north of this flat before sailing off northward to an area near the headquarters of Plietiyo Canyon where they again circled until 10:10 A.M.
California Condor  Eben McMillan  

when they both then sailed eastward and passed from sight behind
hill southwest of Three springs at 10:09 A.M. heading towards the
Tejon Flats.

A drove to Williams Canyon at 10:30 A.M. This is the west fork
of the headwaters of San Emidio Canyon. Leaving my car at
the mouth of Williams Canyon & hiked southwest, up this canyon
for about one mile. Ground squirrels were literally, "all over
the place," in Williams canyon. Their whistling was continuous as
I drew their attention as I walked along. Three separate Golden
Eagle were seen in this canyon. Two deer were observed lying
down, on the top of the high ridge to the west side of Williams
Canyon, out in the open grassland.

Returning to my car, after hiking in Williams Canyon, I then
drove up Devils kitchen, this being the southeast fork of the
headwaters of San Emidio Canyon. At the end of progress,
with a car up this canyon, about one-half mile, I found the
carcass of a calf that appeared to have been eaten on by
Condor. I photographed this carcass and turned back towards
the foothills. In the west fork of Pleitilo Canyon, about one-
quarter mile above the forks, and in the very bottom of a
narrow ditch close by the roadway I came upon the carcass
of another heifer with a small calf lying about ten feet
behind it. This calf was well decomposed, but the cow even
thought smelled somewhat putrid was nevertheless
intact with apparently edible flesh remaining on its
body, but there was no sign of anything having commenced

to eat on either the calf or the cow.
There remains ample forage for cattle in the mountains of the San Emigdio Ranch. The ground is still protected with a good cover of old grass and the new grasses, where having been inhibited somewhat in growth by the cold weather, nevertheless is furnishing all livestock in this area all the forage they need to be doing well.

At 11:05 two Golden Eagles moved along the west slope of Pleito Canyon. On ridge between Pleito and Pleito Canyons a heifer was lying dead about one hundred yards northwest of the cement trough that is located on ridge above where the crossroads meet. This animal appeared to have been dead about a month and showed no signs of ever having been eaten on.

Four dead heifers were observed on the grassland area on the west side of Pleito Canyon. All were within a mile of one another, all were near the roadway. All appeared to have been about a month old. None of these carcasses appeared to have been eaten on by any scavenger. I was on the west side of Pleito Canyon in the area around the Cow Camp from 2:15 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Golden Eagles were in sight in this area nearly all the time I remained there. At one time three Eagles were circling together, at 2:33 p.m. I flushed two immature Golden Eagles from near the roadside one mile south of the Cow Camp. Those birds flushed as I came around a bend. As they left they appeared to have been laden with food. A determined search of the steep hillside from which they flushed turned up no sign of the remains of prey objects, California Ground Squirrels —
were extremely plentiful in the large swales and basins that are so common a part of the geology of the area east of Plieto Canyon. There could have been as many as fifty of these mammals standing or running about one day or holes that would not have been more than seventy-five feet square.

At 4:30 P.M. I left the San Emidio Ranch and returned home via Bakersfield, California.

A map I was formerly using, according to my present map and California place names "Gudda", had misspelled the name Plieto that is given to the second large canyon to the east of the San Emidio Ranch headquarters. A smaller canyon between these two named Plieto Canyon was also misspelled. I have been using the spelling Plieto and Plietito Canyons which according to the above sources is wrong. In the future the correct spelling, as above, will be used.
Ivan came at 3:50 A.M. and we left for Fillmore immediately, arriving there at 7:45 A.M. Ivan left me at the night-camp of the Percy's in the mouth of Hopper Canyon while he drove on towards the Cottonwood and Cow Springs, where he was to watch for Condors and fine his observations, so that we could establish whether the Condors that were being seen in the Agua Blanca and Whiteacre Peak area were the same birds that we saw in the Hopper Mountain and Hopper Canyon areas.

I loaded my pack into Eugene Percy's jeep and rode with him to his Hopper Ranch. I had brought with me a sack full of rabbits and a white house cat that had been either run over or shot. Mr. Percy drove me on ridge between Soda and Sulphur creeks where I put out two Jackrabbit carcasses at the upper limits of automobile travel, on this ridge, and one Jackrabbit and one Cotton-tail carcass on this ridge where the road passes over from soda to Sulphur creeks, about one mile north west of the Percy Ranch home. The Cat and the remaining rabbits, kept in the sack leaving them with my pack at the Bear Tree Corral above the Percy home. The last of these carcasses were put out on Soda-Sulphur Ridge at 9:30 A.M.

At 9:40 A.M. Two Ravens and one immature Golden Eagle were seen circling above the area where the upper carcasses had been left on Soda-Sulphur Ridge. At 9:45 An adult Golden Eagle moved northward along the upper reaches of Soda Canyon hunting close to the ground as it went. As this eagle came around the south end of Hopper Mountain to where it could see the upper rabbit carcasses, it immediately dropped down to where they were. From where I stood, near the Bear Tree —
California Condor  Eben M. McMillan  18 February 1964

Conrad, 9 could not see the area where the rabbit carcasses lay now where the birds were lighting or appearing to be lighting on the ground.

I hiked to the carcass of a Dead Bull that Eugene Percy had shown me and which he said had died of Malignant Edema some five or six days before. The carcass of this Bull in a swale about one-quarter mile south of the Bear Tree Corral. I photographed the carcass of this bull, with both colored and black and white film. It was badly swelled with the front and back legs, on the upper side, sticking up at a 90 degree angle into the air. There were signs about this carcass where birds had been walking on the ground, mostly about the rear end. Some feathers were scattered about near the bull carcass also, but nothing could be found that would indicate that Condor had been near this carcass. Eugene Percy told me that he had seen a flock of Turkey Buzzard, circling above where this carcass lay, about three days ago. These were the first buzzards he had seen this spring. Mr. Percy also said that he understood the bull was to have been vaccinated against Malignant Edema before he purchased it. He thought someone overlooked doing this or else someone inexperienced in handling a vaccine needle might have done the job of vaccinating this bull and not performed the operation properly. He thought the new vaccines for Malignant Edema, when properly applied, were nearly 100 percent perfect. Mr. Percy had purchased this bull as a replacement to another bull he had lost last winter.

I hiked up soda-sulphur ridge at 10:50 a.m. to where the lower dead jackrabbit and cotontail carcasses lay—nothing—
had molested them by this time. At 11:00 A.M. I passed by the place where I had placed the two jackrabbit carcasses earlier this morning. No birds of any sort were in sight nor were any remains of the two jackrabbits to be found anywhere. After searching the area thoroughly, thinking that some creature might have dragged one, or both, rabbit carcasses away some distance, I found no sign of the rabbit carcasses in the area.

I hiked north along the east face of Hopper Mountain to where the pole canyon road comes out on top of Hopper Rim. Following the road northward along Hopper Rim for about one-quarter mile I observed two separate automobile tracks that had gone on out this road, and returned, since the last rains. One set of tracks that had been made not long after the last rain storm had torn the road up considerably. When these tracks were left, it was still quite muddy for the vehicle slid back and forth as it progressed on out the ridge. Returning it experienced some difficulty and in one place appeared to have become stalled until a fire chain was mounted on the left rear wheel.

A second vehicle had passed up the pole canyon road and out along Hopper Rim within the last few days. This car left dim tracks due to the cementing of the road surface following the mixing up of the surface by the early car. Nevertheless, in places one could easily see the tracks of this late vehicle that appeared from these tracks to have been made by a lightweight vehicle that did not have heavy tread on its tires.

At 12:11 P.M. two adult Condors flew southward, swiftly, over the Crossroads of Pole Canyon - Hopper Rim and Hopper Mountain. These Condors dropped from sight behind the northeast face of -
Hopper Mountain.

I hiked hurriedly southward, through the growth of chaparral scrub that grows on the northeast face of Hopper Mountain, to where I could see the soda-sulphur ridge on which the Rabbit Carcasses had been left.

At 12:22, emerging on the south side of this brush patch, I saw two adult Condor and one immature Golden Eagle on the ground in the general area where I had left the two rabbits at the lowest location where the road passes from soda to sulphur creeks.

Both Condor were standing about fifteen feet from where the Eagle was. The Condor appeared to be feeding on one of the Rabbit Carcasses. The Imm. Eagle appeared to be watching the Condor.

The immature Eagle left the ridge where it was sitting at 12:24 P.M. Due to poor lighting conditions I could not follow the flight of this eagle.

At 12:27 P.M., after I had hiked some distance along the face of Hopper Mountain, mostly in sight of the Condors, one Condor flew from where the two Condor had been on the ground. The other Condor continued to pull at something until 12:30 P.M., when it too turned into the air. Watching this last Condor closely with the binoculars I noticed something fall from its grasp; either from its talons or beak. After the bird had gained about two hundred feet of altitude, marking where this object, that the Condor had dropped, fell, I proceeded on down the ridge and found that the object the last Condor had dropped was the skin and legs of the Cotton Tail Rabbit that I had left some one hundred feet from where I now found this morning. No meat was left on this skin. Only the legs and fur covered skin.
California Condor  
Eben H. McMillan  
18 February 1934

Both these adult condors remained circling above sulphur creek for some time. Neither came close enough for me to identify them by missing feathers. An adult golden eagle stooped at one of these condor and above it close to the hillside on the brush-covered, north face of sulphur canyon. This eagle continued to dive at this condor until it left sulphur canyon and flew out of sight around the east face of sulphur creek at 12:35 P.M. The other adult condor soon followed, heading up Hopper Canyon.

Three golden eagles were circling above the east top of Hopper mountain at 12:39 P.M. Except for brief periods of time during the day Red-tailed hawks and golden eagles could be seen flying somewhere in the area. The red-tailed hawks were all immatures. I saw at least two adult golden eagles and at least as many immature eagles. One of the immature golden eagles was undoubtedly a specimen that had been here for some time and had been seen on other occasions. It has long white stripes under the outer wings and the tail is very white.

At 3:56 A.M. an immature condor came out eastward over the top of Hopper mountain. It moved on eastward, then northeastward over north sulphur creek ridge and went out of sight behind this ridge momentarily before returning again to area above Hopper mountain where it sat on the wind, that was blowing strongly from the east, until 4:06 P.M. when it flew out of sight through north sulphur creek pass at 4:08 P.M. During the twelve minutes this bird was in the area it made only three complete circles. Otherwise it faced into the wind continually, drifting backwards, forward or side-slipping to one side or another or lowering-
California condor  Eben Mchillan  18 February 1964

or elevating, perpendicularly, for short distances of perhaps three hundred feet or a time.

While watching this condor, and the other large birds hereabouts, sitting on the wind above Hopper mountain, there appeared to be one small area that lay near the top and above a swale that faced into the wind, a dead-air space created difficulty for them to maneuver over. The first bird I saw pass over this area was an immature hawk. When this hawk hit this area it commenced beating its wings more rapidly than I had ever observed these hawks do so before, and it appeared for a time that it was going to be forced to bank in order to get out of trouble; but it did manage to fly past after about fifteen seconds had passed.

Later, I saw the young condor get trapped over this same dead-air space. The young condor experienced considerable difficulty in getting past this space having to pump its wings quite fast, but did seem to be more maneuverable in this situation than was the hawk that is mentioned above.

At 4:17 p.m. an immature condor came from the north, down Hopper rim, and remained sitting on the wind above Hopper mountain. This immature condor appeared the same as did the bird that was here only a few minutes before. It had considerable muddy while under the wings with the patch of longer muddy-white feathers next to the body. The head appeared dark. The color was soft dark-brown with no sheen. The wings and tail were without feather gaps and the tail was long. When Jan and I were there in Sulphur Creek with Carl Buchheister on February 2 and 3 we saw an immature condor about Hopper mountain that kept 70
California Condor  Eben McMillan  18 February 1964

itself and when it did approach other condors were driven away. Also, on February 2, we saw a ringed-neck immature condor feeding with several other condors on soda-sulphur ridge that appeared to be accepted into the group of condors and even seemed to be allowed privileges of crowding in the flock that would not have been permitted to adult members of this flock. This bird, or any of the immature condors seen today, were not close enough to see if they had ringed necks. This immature condor passed to the north and out of sight, at 4:26 P.M.

At 4:28 P.M., 50 turkey buzzards were seen moving north in a tight group, but over the eastern side of Hopper Canyon across from the Percy Ranch home. The strong East wind impeded their northward progress and after about 4:38 P.M. this flock broke up and dropped below the horizon, presumably to roost for the night.

At 4:42 P.M., an immature condor was seen circling over the north end of Hopper Mountain in company with an adult Golden Eagle. The young condor was holding a position about fifty feet above the eagle and a short distance farther eastward into the wind. Both birds held this position for about six minutes when the eagle gained altitude quickly, just above and behind the young condor, and then chased the condor down into the north-west arm of Sulphur Creek and out through the north sulphur pass at 4:49 P.M.

An immature Golden Eagle spent several minutes playing with objects that it would pick up from the ground, on the east slope and near the top of Hopper Mountain. The strong East wind made it possible for this eagle to drop down and pick up an object from—
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Del McMillan  
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The surface of the ground then take off into the air again without flapping its wings either in flighting or leaving. The objects it picked up from time to time appeared to be light in weight and when carried aloft for one hundred feet or so and dropped would fall to the earth rather slowly. These objects were probably dried cow dung. The young eagle gambled about in the wind repeating this dropping down to pick up an object and carry it aloft where it would be dropped for five minutes before moving on northward and out of sight.

At 5:15 p.m. an adult golden eagle was observed making three aerial dives out over the center of Hopper Canyon northwest of the Percy Ranch home.

At 5:16 p.m. a pigeon hawk, coming from the Southwest, passed above me on soda-sulphur ridge only a few feet away. This bird continued on up Hopper Canyon, quite high, into the strong wind. The sunset clear and somewhat on the calm side as the east wind died down to a strong breeze at sunset. The air was sharp with little haze or smog.
The day broke clear, fair and mild. Little if any smog could be seen in the Santa Clara valley or any of its neighboring areas. A mild east wind was blowing gently. I packed up and hiked to Sulphur Canyon, via the roadway that goes from Bear Tree Ravels. As I topped out on the soda-sulphur ridge I put out two Cottontail Rabbit carcasses that I had brought and the carcass of a large white housecar that Gregor, my son, had killed at my place about five days ago. The White Car and one Cottontail were placed out on the point above where the road crosses over ridge from soda to sulphur creeks and in view of the sulphur creek campsite and were left a distance of about ten feet from one another. The remaining Cottontail was placed about sixty feet to the south of the other rabbit and cat, and about ten feet from the brow of a rise over which I could not see from the sulphur creek campsite. This done I hiked down to sulphur creek campsite and stationed myself out in the center of the flat on which the old oil well site is located.

Out of a flock of 23 deer that were grazing on the open south facing hillside one-half mile north of the Percy home were six bucks. All six had good, with two pairs of fine antlers.

At one time three of these buck deer, with one of the larger ones, seemed able to drive the big buck.

Among this group of deer were a fawn and a yearling that played a sort of follow the leader game. One would dash across a swale on the steep hillside and run at full speed out onto a point beyond the swale about
Two hundred yards, to be followed in turn by the other. After playing together on this point, both would come dashing back to where the remainder of the deer fed in the swale. Both these young deer would run much faster than one sees them go when running in a group, or singularly, and as they dashed away they continued to lick up small geysers of dust that when caught in the early morning rays of the sun, gave detailed report of where the deer were running, and at what speed. Otherwise, the light was not soon for observation on the hillsides where the two young deer played.

Seven turkey buzzards passed along the east face of Hopper Mountain at 8:10 A.M., continuing their way northward without any hesitation. A flock of six Ravens came north out of Soda Creek at 8:20 A.M., and passing about one hundred feet uphill from where the cat and rabbits lay, either missed seeing them, or completely ignored them. At 9:00 A.M. two Ravens hovered over the area where the carcases were, but failed to drop down on them, or near them. At 9:10 two Ravens came and dropped on ground near the Cottonwood that was south of the other two carcases, but soon both birds flew northward and lit in a tall, dead, spruce tree that stands about one quarter mile north of the Sulphur Creek Campsite.

At 9:18 A.M. an adult Condor was seen circling below the wooded point north of Perry home at east end of Soda-sulphur ridge. This bird was seen only for a moment before it went from sight southward.

At 9:32 A.M., an adult Condor came up Hopper Canyon opposite Perry home, tvs over the center of the Canyon and at an elevation —
about equal at the horizon from where I was at Sulphur creek camp. This condor continued up Hopper canyon to a point about even with sulphur creek when it turned northeast and headed towards the Pihu area. At 9:35 a.m. it dropped from my sight flying along the ridge, northward, between Hopper and Pihu canyons.

At 10:45 an adult condor came out over east top of Hopper mountain. This bird had fifth primary missing from right wing and one feather gap in secondary wing feathers on right wing about \( \frac{1}{3} \) way out from body. See diagram below.

This bird circled above Hopper mountain briefly and sailed out by sight northward at 10:47 A.M.

At 10:56 A.M. an immature condor came from the north, sails down over South Hopper mountain, then reverses its direction and after circling some over north Hopper mountain briefly, moved on north along Hopper rim at 11:00 A.M.

At 11:48 A.M. a Golden Eagle came in and lit on ground near Cottontail rabbit carcasses that had been placed fifty or sixty feet from the other carcasses. At 11:50 A.M. an adult condor came directly into the area and lit on the same near where the eagle was. The eagle then flew up from the ground and attacked the condor causing it to fly also. As the eagle dove at the condor it appeared to touch it or the back with its Talons, or feet. The condor did not seem to be overly afraid of the eagle's advances. This at 11:50 A.M. At 11:54 the condor —
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returned and landed near the isolated cottontail rabbit. It walked
around this rabbit carcass two or three times appearing very
suspectious. When it did reach out to pick up the rabbit carcass it
stood away and reached as far as it could by stretching out its
neck and leaning forward as if trying to reach the carcass from as
far away as it possibly could. See diagram below.

This condor seemed to think the rabbit was going to jump up and
attack it.

After considerable reaching towards the cottontail carcass this Condor
finally picked it up. When the cottontail carcass moved as the Condor
pulled at it the bird dropped its hold and jumped away flapping its wings.
This was repeated three times. Each time the Condor would move the rabbit carcass a few feet before dropping it and flying or jumping
back out of the way. Several ravens came in and one landed near the
rabbit carcass while the condor was about ten feet away. The condor
ran at the raven and frightened it into the air. The condor continued
to fly and jump away from the rabbit carcass until it was
dropped out of sight from where I sat.

At 12:00 noon two more condor came into where I saw
condor and several ravens were interested in the cottontail carcass that
had now been dragged from sight from where I sat. One of these last two
condor dropped down out of sight where rabbit carcass was. This condor
and the one that was formally there must have been competing over
the cottontail carcass for I could see their wings flapping above —
California Condor  
Eben Delchevillian  
14 February 1964

low ridge that kept them from my view. Two more Condor came in from the north, quite high, and joined the one Condor that was still circling at 12:05 PM. One of these last Condor had a wide gap in the feathers of the right wing next to its body and another small gap in right wing about one-half way out from the body. The other Condor had gap in left wing near body. See diagram below-

The Condor were circling above me at 12:05.

One was thusly marked

One was thusly marked

One was thusly marked

Six Condor circling or feeding at 12:17 PM.

Seven Condor at 12:20 PM. An immature had just come in from the north and was immediately perched by two adults and ran not too

high. One Condor now circling could be seen to have feather defects thusly

Seven Condor circling above Sulphur Canyon Camp at 12:25 PM.

Six of these were adults. The immature was by itself much...
higher than the others.

The condor including the immature flew north up towards the sun in the well at 12:26 p.m. Two adult condors remained and circled the area near where the white cat and the remaining Cottonwood rabbit lay. One of these remaining two condors had Gap in its right wing, 3% of the way out from its body, while the other was dead with two gaps in the left wing. These two condors left to the North through North Sulphur Pass at 12:35.

An immature condor came out over Hopper mountain at 12:36 p.m. and moved out of sight northward at 12:39 p.m.

The significant matters in today's observations are as follows:

Having been able to find distinguishing marks on at least six of the condors I saw today.

Having observed that the young condor was being discouraged from hanging around by at least two adult condors.

That something discouraged the condors from taking the Cottonwood rabbit carcass that was near the white housecat carcass. I think the white housecat carcass appeared suspicious to the condor, the eagle, and the hawks, thus making the condor suspicious of everything.

That adult condor show no particular fear of Golden Eagles in the Hopper mountain area.

That condors can be easily baited.

That rabbits are good condor bait.

I left the area at 1:30 p.m., hiked up over South end of Hopper Mountain, across Pole Canyon to Oil Well cabins and then-
California Condor, Edwin H. Austin

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down Jem road to oil fields road that I followed down to Oak Flat Camp of the U.S. Forest Service. Arriving at the Oak Flat camp at 4:45 P.M. I found Jack Gains and a fellow in civilian clothes waiting for Ray Delen whom Jack said he thought was in the Bucksnort area with Ian. Ian’s Dodge pickup was parked, and locked, near the Oak Flat Forest Camp cabin. At 5:05 P.M. Jack Gains said he would not wait any longer and for me to tell Delen that he would be down at his home in Fillmore if he wanted to stop by and see Gains.

As I approached the Oak Flat Camp at 5:45 P.M. the fellow who was with Jack Gains called to me, "Did you have any luck?" I answered that it all depended on what he meant by luck. I said that I had seen a condor. This fellow seemed surprised and said, "You did?" Jack Gains asked him if I had been in the back country. I told him no, that I had camped last night at the Percy Corral and had hiked on across pole canyon this afternoon.

Ian, Ray Delen, and another fellow, came at 6:45 P.M. from his brother. Ian and I left for home, U.S. Castaic Junction arriving home at 11:15 P.M. Enroute home Ian explained his experiences of the past two days. It sounded incredible that the forest service would have Jack Gains take a photographer within a few hundred feet of a known nest-site of condor during the very time when these birds would be laying their eggs. It appears that something must be done to protect the condor from their protectors.
Surely, many organizations that are presently contributing to the Condor Preservation Fund of the National Audubon Society will be very unhappy should they find out that the Foreign Service is doing one of two things: either knowingly disregarding all the recommendations made by Carl Leopold in his monograph of the Condor or else they have never read this study and are proceeding with their responsibility of Condor welfare as if the preservation of this bird were some great joke and a farce.
I drove to the Cholame flats at 9:30 a.m. The morning was mild, clear and calm. No eagles were seen in Palo Pinto Canyon.

The Cholame Ranch is feeding alfalfa hay to most of their cattle. Great groups of cows and calves were gathered on the grounds where they are being fed. One dead calf was seen by itself. Four dead cows were seen half buried which had been eaten on and this mostly about the rear end where the body of a calf that had gotten about 3/4 of the way but had been well eaten as well as the near end of this cow. One old cow had just dropped a calf near the road on hard grade. Only one red-tailed hawk was seen. No other large birds were in the area.

Great numbers of young calves are on the ground and many more being added each day. The cows in general look weak but the calves look good. The range feed is practically non-existent. Some cows are still living on range grasses in the Rock Corral Canyon but these are weakening fast. Purebred cows like these of the Tejon or San Emigdio Ranches would not survive with these old cows for long.
California Condor  ... Eben Thesmiller

It was clear and cold and calm, as I drove to Jan's place and picked him up at 6:00 A.M. We had a sack full of Jack rabbits that we loaded in to take with us as Condor bait in the Hopper canyon area. We drove down highway 101. At a place about two miles north of where the San Marcos Pass road takes off from highway 101 we came upon the carcass of a deer that had been hit by a motorist during the night and although being well mangled was loaded onto a canvas and tossed into the back of the pickup to be used as Condor bait also. Continuing on, via the San Marcos pass, we arrived in Santa Barbara and were at the office of Mr. William Hansen, Supervisor for Los Padres National Forest, at 9:04 A.M.

Mr. Hansen invited us into his office, not uncordially, and immediately opened the discussion regarding the incident where Jan had come upon Jack Gains and a photographer for Ralston-Purina, a Mr. Burton, photographing Condor in the area of a nest-site last Tuesday, February 18-1964. We were informed by Mr. Hansen that he wanted us to understand that Jack Gains was officially on duty, on the three days he was in the Bucksnort and Oak Flat areas, with Mr. Burton. That although Gains had been taking his days off during this part of the week, in the past, his off days had been recently changed whereby he was on official duty on the days he had Mr. Burton under his care. Mr. Hansen said that Mr. Gains had camped with Mr. Burton Monday and Tuesday nights at the Bucksnort Cabin. That Mr. Gains had
On the morning of Tuesday, February 16, 1964, Mr. Burton took the helipad, that is not in the corridor area, and which he should not have done, and so did without the prior consent or knowledge of Mr. Hansen. Mr. Hansen stated that permission had been granted Patrolman Gains to take this photographer, Mr. Burton, into the corridor, but not off the corridor, by the forest service Office in Ojai, that is under the jurisdiction of Ranger Jack Parkinson. Mr. Hansen denied any knowledge of the affair. This, he said, is why he had requested a detailed report of the whole incident from Jan.

At this point Jan told Mr. Hansen of receiving a letter from him asking for a statement from us, regarding our thinking concerning the value of the Condor Refuge in Sesquidé River Falls Canyon, and what its impact on condor preservation might be. Jan explained to Mr. Hansen that our association with the present condor survey was such that it was vitally important that we not take sides in any issue such as that presently arising over the Construction of a Sierra Madre Ridge Road and especially not allowing our names, as connected with the condor survey, to be used in any way that would show where we had passed official judgement until all the facts are down and have been completely compiled and evaluated following the completion of the study. Mr. Hansen said he did not want us to make any statement that he felt could not be used, that he only thought we might have something to pass on about the relative value of this refuge to the future of condor preservation or lack of value.
It was here that Mr. Hansen returned to Mr. Gains, Mr. Burton, incident by stating that he had had a discussion with Mr. Gains on this matter and that he, Gains, had convinced Mr. Hansen that he did not take Mr. Burton any further than the heliport that is about one-half mile North of the Bucksnort Cabin. Mr. Hansen stated that Jack Gains gave this story. That he had taken Mr. Burton to the heliport to photograph condor and while there had noticed three sets of human tracks going towards Whiteacre peak. Leaving Mr. Burton at the heliport, Mr. Gains proceeded up the road or trail in quest of the trespassers who had left the tracks, for no one is allowed off the corridor unless accompanied by a written permit. Mr. Hansen here stated that Jack Gains did wrong in driving up towards Whiteacre peak as he should have shown better judgement and walked up instead. After Patrolman Gains had left in quest of the trespassers, Mr. Burton had gone down to an opening below the heliport. It was in this opening that Mr. Gains had told him that the photographer, Mr. Burton, had been, when Luan came along. Then when Patrolman Gains had driven as far as he could following the tracks, Mr. Hansen was told by Gains that he left the vehicle there and continued on after the trespassers. It was while he was on in search of the trespassers, that Luan had come up and found the Forest Service vehicle parked in the opening across the canyon from, and within one quarter mile of a known condor nest. Hansen said that Patrolman Gains told him that it was while
he was beyond the vehicle searching out the trespassers, that
Jan had come up and observed his vehicle with no one around.

Mr. Hansen said that from the records at his office, that
Balston—Purinia, or Mr. Burton, had written several months ago
stating their desire to photograph condor and asking how they
would need to go about getting permission. It was here that
Mr. Hansen stated that some years ago a photographer for
Sports Illustrated magazine had received permission from
The Audubon Society, he thought, to so in and take pictures
of condor. In that Balston—Purinia mentioned that the purpose
of their photographing condor was to add condor in a
Conservation message they are now putting out. Mr. Hansen
thought this would be in the interest of condor conservation, he
said so permission was granted on the grounds that
permission had been given the Sports Illustrated magazine
photographer, thus the Balston—Purinia man had equal rights.

Mr. Hansen stated that this was the last. That no more
permits would be given to anyone to enter the Condor or Wildlife
Refuse in the future without prior knowledge of the Condor
advisory group. Excepting Jan and I of course. Mr. Hansen
stated that he wanted us to understand that we were to have free
use of the Sespe Wildlife Area during the course of our study and
that he would see that any help he needed from Forest Service
personnel. That should we want help from any member of the Forest
Service force that he would ask that we put these people
three or four days prior Notice so as to allow them to
arrange their time so as not to conflict in any way. Mr. Hansen —
Galidovnre Cukor IIL) Bs DR 25 February 1464

said that we did not need to notify anyone that we were entering the
sensitive wildlife area, that we could go and come as we pleased, that he did
not care what we did while we were in the wildlife area; in fact, he
said, it was none of his business. Mr. Hansen stated that he did
not want us to feel responsible to anyone in the forest service in
his region nor did he feel that the forest service had any responsibility
towards us.

Supervisor Hansen reminded us that he wanted to see everything
done to protect Condor. Thus he was as interested in seeing Condor
guarded as anyone. I asked Mr. Hansen who he should check
with when entering the Condor refuge for we want to let members of
the forest service know of our movements when we are in the sensitive
wildlife area and that, in the past, it has always been our
policy to inform someone as to our whereabouts in the
area. I asked if it would be OK to notify his, Mr.
Hansen's, office when we go into the refuge. Mr. Hansen said
no, that we should notify the Ojai Office, that Mr. Jack
Parkinson manages this Office and if no one is at this
Office then we could notify Jack Gains.

Supervisor Hansen told us that he had made an investigation of
the matter and that he had to go along with Gains, "I cannot
suspect these men. I must believe what they say." Of course
if it is proven that Jack Gains did hire the photographer with
him near the condor nest then this would be a different matter
and would have to be dealt with. Gains would be liars and
if I find he is lying he will be fired. This is generally the
statement of Supervisor Hansen. He Mr. Hansen said Jack
California Condor  Eben McMillan  25 February 1964

Gains is a good man. That there seemed to have been some difficulty or trouble between us and the Forest Service Office at the commencement of this study, but that Jack Gains had assured him that he had always had friendly relations with us and saw no reason why they couldn't continue to be the same. Jan assured Mr. Hansen that this was correct. That Jack Gains had always been most co-operative with us as has been all other personnel of the Los Padres National Forest and that we held no personal feelings against anyone in this branch, but that our job called for the investigation and appraisal of all factors that have a bearing on the welfare of Condor and that we were of the opinion that were we not to put these things down as we see them happen as we find them to be, then we would be derelict in our duty to an honest appraisal. That we wished to inconvenience no one other than the extent necessary to bring out the facts in this case.

Jan then mentioned why he had gone to the Santa Barbara People with the word of this affair. That he had called the Ojai Office and found no one there. That he had called Mr. Hunsens Office and for someone to come to the Oak Flat area and appraise this situation with him immediately after he found the problem of entry into the Sespe wildlife area being abused by Mr. Gains and the photographer and that a person had been sent out to appraise what he had done wrong in going to a phone and calling the head office before calling -
local representatives who could have straightened things out immediately. Ian said that due to this condition he had to set someone sympathetic with his claim that there was malfeasance committee here and that the very wording of the permit he carried committed him to make an issue of any irregularities he might find happening when in the area of the Sesa wildlife area. To this, Mr. Hansen agreed that he was doing what was right.

Mr. Hansen stated that both Jack Gains and the photographer Burton had signed statements to the effect that they did not go beyond the heliport into the wildlife area. That both Burton and Gains had camped two nights in the cabin at Bucksnort and that Jack Gains had taken Burton around the area during the three days he was there. Hansen said he thought that Gains was a good man and this was only the second incident of its kind in the last 8 years so he thought the record as a whole had been good in the administration of the Gador program by the Forest Service.

Ian asked William Hansen if he had a report of the incident that he could go over and analyze. Mr. Hansen stated that there is no report and there will be none. Ian then handed him the report of his findings that Mr. Hansen had asked for.
we stopped in Ojai and found the full secretary in charge of the office and were informed by her that all the men were at a school in Santa Barbara, or somewhere.

We stopped at Fillmore and picked up keys to Percy ranch from the Elder Steve Percy and drove to Percy Ranch on Hopper Mountain. Eugene Percy was about the Bear Tree Corral, on horseback, on his way into Pole Canyon to cut some trails. He was quite worried about the lack of rain saying that things would get critical in another week or two if it does not rain.

Mr. Percy rode up the mountain and we drove north to where the road tops out on Suda-Sulphur Ridge and there below the road we put out Two Jack rabbit carcasses and Two Jack rabbit carcasses above the road also. This was at 2:00 p.m.

One Raven and Two Red-Tailed Hawks over east slope of Hopper Mountain at 2:20 p.m., as we went into camp, in the swale above the line Oak Tree, about two hundred feet SE of the upper oil well site on flat in Sulphur Canyon.

An immature Condor sailed out over east slope of the top of Hopper Mountain at 2:25 p.m. This bird sailed on north along Hopper rim out of sight at 2:28 p.m.

At 2:34 p.m. an immature Condor, probably the same one that was here 12 minutes ago, flew out over north top of Hopper Mountain and continued on NE passed from sight going in the direction of towards Hole-in-Wall at 2:40 p.m.

2:42 p.m. One adult Condor Circling above our camp.
briefly before setting northward and passing from sight behind North Pass at 2:44 p.m.

At 3:08 p.m., two adult condors circling high about one mile north of our camp. They were gone from sight at 3:10 p.m. without my seeing which way they went.

Two ravens one and light near rabbit carcasses above the road act suspicious and fly away only to return now and then to light and fly away again.

Red-Tailed hawks, all immature, were seen hunting the slopes of Hopper mountain throughout the afternoon.

A gentle west or southwest wind that had blown all the time this afternoon that he had been on Hopper mountain, now turned to the east and became quite cold. The sky was clear and the Los Angeles basin was quite free of smog, at least above the 500 foot level, that is about where we could see from the lower slopes of Hopper Mt.

The sky was clear except for a few contrails of vapor left by high flying planes. A bit west of Hopper mountain seems to be the main beam that airplanes follow north out of Los Angeles. The planes coming south are usually lowering for an approach to the Los Angeles landing areas while those going north are smoothing for altitude as they come up out of the Los Angeles basin.

At 3:10 p.m., an immature Golden Eagle with about the 6th primary missing from its right wing glided down Soba-sulphur ridge from the top of Hopper Mountain and circled over where the Jack Rabbit carcasses were and also over our camp before leaving the area.
California Condor    Elwin McMillan

It was cold throughout the night. The east wind that blew in
Gusts was quite strong at times but not of gale force. The
sky was clear at sunrise and a minimum of smog lay
in the Los Angeles basin. A Red-Tailed Hawk was hunting on
the upper east face of Hopper Mountain at sunrise. About
8:00 AM, an immature Golden Eagle drifted down from top of
Hopper Mountain, circled above our camp briefly before leaving
southward.

At 9:05 AM, an adult Golden Eagle came around hill from
the south, on a level with our camp, hunting, and seeing me standing
by the pickup, veered upward and turning downhill moved out to
the southeast, but did not seem to notice the carcass of the deer
we put out on the ridge above the road where it came
around point from Soda Creek. We also put out one more
Jackrabbit here and Two Cottontails.

9:25 two Raven hunting about southeast Top of Hopper
mountain. A group of Crows were in the Trees just below our
camp, but never ventured into the air. Very high nor were
they seen out on the Open grasslands. At this same time the
twittering hootorial call of Sparrowhawk was heard in the Big One Spring
tree Northeast of our camp and a flicker whistled from the canyon
below.

At 9:27 an immature Golden Eagle hovered for a few moments
over the southeast face of Upper Hopper Mountain before diving
out of sight into Soda Canyon.

Red-Tailed Hawks have been in sight most of the morning,
chasing one another at great speeds all along the eastern slope-
of Hopper Mountain, sometimes creating a great tooting noise when
diving after one another nearby and coming out of Towering
dives at great speeds. These are all immature Red Tailed Hawks
that seem to enjoy flying above at great speed, in which these
birds are very maneuverable and adept at turning and banking.

One pair of raven came in and went from one bait to another,
alighting on the ground near either the rabbit Carcasses that were
well scattered or the deer carcasses. At times these birds would
jump into the air four or five feet as if something had
frightened them, after which they would either settle back and
walk around the carcass or else fly away for a time
before returning. This pair came first at 9:59 AM. Another
pair of ravens joined the first ones at 10:10 AM. As the new
birds came in this seemed to add to the courage, or lessen the
suspicion of all the raven that now commenced feeding on one
of the Jackrabbits and the deer at separate intervals. These Raven
seemed concerned also with Mortal display and spent much
time chasing one another in the air.

Two adult Condor show up, out of nowhere, at 10:16 AM.
and after circling above ravens that were now feeding on
one of the Jackrabbits seemed disposed to come down and
feed even though they would come down close above the bait
at times.

Five raven were feeding on deer Carcass at 10:22 AM.
and an adult Golden Eagle came in and stacked up,
hovering on the wind above where the raven were feeding.
9 Raven feeding at on deer Carcass at 10:24- - -
Califomia Condor  Eben McMillan  26 February 1969

At 10:24 A.M. the Eagle that had been hovering above lowered down and passing by above one of the lower Jackrabbit carcasses grabbed it briefly, then let it go, causing the rabbit carcass to be thrown about ten feet downhill. After this the Eagle drifted downhill, eastward, and alighted in a dead spruce tree that stands with several others of its kind on Soda-Sulphur Ridge after it commences to plunge down into Hopper Canyon in the timbered area.

At 10:26 the two Condors that came earlier are still stacked up, hovering above the bairt, but not coming in to light on the ground as yet.

At 10:28 an adult Golden Eagle comes in and circles with the Condors, neither paying the other much attention. A few of which there were now twelve, would fly up and chase the Condor and the Eagle. On one occasion the Eagle dushed after one raven but after one stoop and a miss that was the result of a deft turn by the raven, the Eagle came back and circled. Following this chase the raven seemed to enjoy it and immediately returned to pester the Eagle again but to no avail.

At 10:29 A.M. Two single engine jet planes roared up Hopper Canyon well below my level. In fact they passed up the canyon following a line of flight that fixed them, from where I sat, near Sulphur Canyon Camp, at about one-half way up the opposite, or east side of Hopper Canyon and opposite Sulphur Creek drainage. Had any Condor been flying in the bottom of Hopper
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canyon at the time these planes roared up its drainage leaving long tails of black smoke, they could have been hit. For at high speed these aircraft were traveling Condor would be hit before they even knew what was coming. These two planes continued on up Hopper Canyon passing directly over the nesting area near hole-in-the-wall. The roar of their engines would seem to me to be a disturbing influence to nesting Condor if not downright frightening them. And of course there is a real danger of hitting one of these Condor or an eagle as these planes fly up this canyon so low. I am sure there is supposed to be restrictions on the flight pattern over this Sespe wildlife area. Jack Gains once told us that planes must maintain a 500 foot ceiling over the Sespe wildlife area. Perhaps these planes were 500 feet above the canyon bottom but less than 500 feet from the sides of the canyon on each side of them. It would appear that if these planes continue to pass through this area in this way that it is just a matter of time until one of them hits a large bird of some sort. A Condor would probably bring them down.

At 10:30 one of the two Condor that had circled above the basin for the last fifteen minutes came north and circled near the north face of Sulphur Canyon near where I was now crouched in the sage bushes. I am sure it saw me but paid no heed and after gaining some elevation moved out of sight to the mouth at 10:31.
California Condor  Edwin McMillan  26 February, 1964

Another condor came from North Hopper Mountain at 10:32 A.M. and joined the one condor that has remained circling above the baits.

An adult Golden Eagle came in and alighted on the ground near upper Jack Rabbit, but soon flew into the air again. One of the two condors circling now flies out Northward, up Hopper Canyon, towards Hole-in-the-Wall at 10:20 A.M. While the other remained hovering above the baits.

The eagle that was near upper Jack Rabbit, on ground, has been sitting for a few minutes. Another eagle, or the same one previously here, comes in and circles above the baits then moves out of sight to the south at 10:22 A.M.

At 10:48 A.M., an adult eagle came from the south and landed on the ground near deer carcass. At least twelve ravens were coming and going from this carcass. They had been feeding on this deer for quite a few minutes, but never steadily. One minute 8 or 10 ravens would be on the ground walking around the deer carcass and pickling meat from it, the next minute all would fly up into the air, or perhaps only one or two of the raven would remain on the ground.

At 10:49, soon after the Eagle lit near the deer carcass, the adult condor that had been hovering above now dropped down and lit on the ground opposite the Eagle from the deer carcass, and about ten feet away. Nine raven, one Golden Eagle and one adult condor were all about the deer carcass at 10:50 A.M. At 10:51 A.M., the Eagle jumped, with wings flapping, at the—
Condor, at which action the condor flew into the air while the eagle chased it about fifty feet before returning to deer carcass and commencing to feed on this carcass for the first time.

In jumping at the condor while it and the eagle were on the ground near the deer carcass, the eagle seemed to thrust its talons towards the condor instead of using its beak or wings. The talons could have balanced the tail of the condor before it set out of the way, but with no momentum it is doubtful that any damage could be done in this manner.

Eagle eating on deer carcass with many ravens gathered about it at 10:51 A.M., while the condor hovered overhead a few yards.

At 10:52 A.M., the condor sailed downhill about 150 yards to where the lower jackrabbits had been left as bait. After circling only a few feet above one of these jackrabbit carcasses momentarily, the condor dropped on the ground near the rabbit carcass. It stood for about 30 seconds staring at the rabbit carcass and now and then looking down at its own feet as if in fear that some sort of trap were on the ground nearby. It then walked a few steps around the rabbit carcass, crouching and twisting its head forward and downward as if to get a better look at what might be wrong with the rabbit. Once it flipped its wings a bit and jumped back a bit as if something about the rabbit carcass had moved. At 10:53 this condor flew again and continued to hover above the baits. The golden eagle and at least 10 ravens were still feeding about the deer carcass.
The condor flew down and alighted near the same jack-rabbit that it had been near at 10:53 a.m. It again walked around the carcass, looking towards it very suspicously, and before it lit on the ground. As this raven flew by the condor ducked down and dodged to the side. Both the condor and raven flew into the air at 10:55 a.m. and returned uphill to circle above where eagle and other raven are feeding on deer carcass. After circling here a few moments the condor returned to hover above the lower jack-rabbit carcass near which it had previously lit.

The Eagle left the deer carcass and flew down to where the condor was hovering above the lower carcasses at 10:58 a.m. The condor then flew uphill and lit on the ground about fifteen feet from the deer carcass. As the condor was standing looking at the deer carcass, the Eagle returned from below and dove at the condor that immediately took wing and was chased a short distance by the eagle. The Eagle then flew down and moving slowly past the lower jack-rabbit carcass, of which the condor had lit a few minutes before, and into the wind and heading downhill, it grasped this rabbit carcass in its talons and very slowly, with no flapping of the wings, raised the carcass off the ground, gliding downhill into a stiff breeze from the east, it carried the carcass down about one-quarter mile where it went in among thick oak trees and disappeared. This at 11:00 a.m.

The condor that had continued to remain hovering above the blasts landed on the ground near another of the lower —
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Tower Jackrabbit Carcasses. This condor stood looking at this carcass until a raven came and lit below on the hillside about 30 feet away. The condor flew to where this raven was and drove the raven into the air by flapping and flapping towards it at 11:03 a.m. After raven had left the area this condor walked back up the hill near where the rabbit carcass was and stood gazing at it, then moves up and crouching with knees bent and body close to ground, stretched its neck as far as possible and picked at the rabbit carcass with its beak. In nibbling at this carcass it was moved a bit, at which this condor jumped back and walked away then flew into the air and moved uphill and hovered above the deer carcass at 11:07 a.m. This condor returned and landed near the lower rabbit carcass again at 11:09 a.m., walked near the carcass looking down at it with head and neck stretched forward as I have seen turkeys do when following a snake along in the grass. Now and then this condor would flip its wings and jump as if something had frightened it. Also now and then it would look behind itself as if to be sure something were not coming upon it from behind.

At 11:12 this condor flew from where it had been near the carcass of one of the lower Jackrabbits and proceeded to hover above the deer carcass where several ravens were feeding and flying. At 11:13 a.m. it returned and lit near lower rabbit carcass again and went through the same procedure of circling this carcass and watching it intently. It flew again at 11:15 a.m.
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After circling the area the condor returned to the area near the lower jackrabbit carcass at 11:16 AM, but after standing and looking at the carcass for 1/2 minute it again flew and circled the area. This was repeated again at 11:19 AM.

Another condor came in from the north at 11:20 AM. Two condors were now hovering above the baits. An immature Golden Eagle came in and lit near the carcass of one of the upper jackrabbits upon which it soon fed. After feeding on this rabbit carcass for about 60 seconds this eagle took into the air, dragging the carcass of the rabbit with it, along the ground seemingly for about twenty feet, where the hill pitched off rather steeply, where the eagle now got airborne with the rabbit for a distance of about two hundred feet, when it dropped the rabbit remains into the bottom of the canyon below or a drop of about 100 feet.

At 11:21, one condor landed on ground near deer carcass. An eagle came and fed on another of the upper jackrabbits carcasses while the other condor circled above. The condor on the ground left the deer carcass at 11:24 without having fed on it. This condor dropped into canyon where eagle had dropped the rabbit. Eagle still feeding on upper rabbit carcass.

One condor lands near lower jackrabbit carcass at 11:25 AM after repeating the acts of earlier of standing and looking, and circling the rabbit carcass suspiciously, this condor flew into the air again and hovered above at 11:26 AM.

Many ravens still go and come from deer carcass and eagle still feeding on upper carcass of rabbit at 11:30 while two -
A condor hovered above. At 11:31, one of the condor drops down and lands on ground near lower rabbit carcass. Repeats its common performance: at standing, looking — walking around carcass, and jumping back and forth. While other condor hovered overhead about 30 feet.

Two more adult condor come in from southwest at 11:32 A.M. and join the one circling. At 11:33, the condor that was on the ground near the lower rabbit carcass flew and joined the other three now circling.

A fourth adult condor circling at 11:33 A.M. While eagle fed on upper jackrabbit carcass, and ravens still were coming and going from deer carcass.

At 11:35, one condor lowers down and lands near deer carcass. At nearly the same time another condor did likewise and both walk to deer carcass and nibble at it. A third condor joins them at 11:36 A.M. These condor do not feed on the deer carcass but rather pull on nictitating membranes and still reach it with outstretched neck. All three became nervous and leery. At 11:39, all three of these condor flew from the deer carcass and hovered above while the fourth condor, that had not landed, moved up Hogger Canyon and out of sight towards the Hono-in-the-walls.

One condor landed on ground near eagle feeding on upper rabbit carcass at 11:40 A.M.; and another condor did likewise five seconds later. The eagle jumped at one of these condor —
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that moved back away from the eagles rush but did not seem overly
afraid. The Eagle then flew out northward, and downhill, carrying
the remains of the jackrabbit it had fed on, with it. As the
Eagle soared over the canyon it dropped the rabbit remains,
that landed on a grass covered hillside about 150 yards
north, and somewhat below, where the Eagle had fed on it.

After dropping the rabbit remains the Eagle flew on to the
southwest and out of sight.

No sooner had the Eagle dropped the rabbit remains
than one of the Condor that were circling above dropped down and
landed near where the rabbit remains fell. At 11:43 a.m. two more
adult Condor now flew in from the northeast. At 11:49 a.m.
two Condor were on ground near where Eagle had fed on upper
Jackrabbit. While two Condor and several Ravens were in
Swale where Eagle had dropped the last rabbit remains,
at 11:50 five Condor were circling above the baits and
11:54 all five condor had dropped into swale where eagle had
dropped rabbit remains. A 6th Condor came in from the south
at 11:58, and all six were circling above baits at 12:00 noon.

The light was poor from where I sat, for identifying birds
with missing feathers, in the morning, but past mid-day it
improved somewhat. At 12:02 a bird with gap in flight
wing 3/4 way out came and circled over me.

Two more Condor came in high and fast, from the northwest,
at 12:04, one of which had the 14th or 15th primary missing from
left wing.

At 12:07 nine condor were circling the baits. It was now-
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Getting difficult to keep track of each condor, where it was going and what it was doing. To add to this confusion more ravens had come in swelling their numbers to about 18 or twenty birds. Also one turkey vulture came up from the south, remained along the south side of soda-sulphur ridge soaring back and forth for about five minutes before leaving the area and not being seen again.

One condor circling showed a large gap in middle of left wing.
One condor showed 5th primary missing from left wing.
At 12:15 P.M. Ten condor were circling above the baits.
One condor with about 6th primary missing from right wing.
One condor with gaps 1/4 and 3/8 way out missing from left wing.

Condors were coming and going, but a doubt that any left that did not return. At 12:20 P.M. one condor dropped down and lit near deer carcass. It walked to carcass and commenced feeding but soon walked about ten feet away and stood. Another condor soon landed near this one, both stood and watched the ravens feeding on the deer carcass. One of these these condors walked over and fed on the deer carcass but seemed very fearful and leery, and when one of the ravens would find its wings, this condor would jump back and look at, or towards, the raven as if fearful that something was wrong. From this I gathered that some of these condors had witnessed others of their kind caught in traps or such like and those surviving developed a fear of anything like this that was not completely natural.

Two condors and eleven raven were at the deer carcass.
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at 12:40 p.m., with three Condors circling above them. Three Condors on ground near deer carcass at 12:41 p.m., with four Condors circling above them. The three Condors on ground have not yet some in to actually feed on the deer carcass. They stay back and watch the Ravens gouging themselves. Something is strange with this scene. Either these Condors have fed previously or else they are aware of my watching them all the time from this vantage point at least one-half mile away. I will now leave this location that is about 1/4 mile northeast of our sulphur camp and move to a vantage point among the oak trees where I will be less conspicuous. To see if this has any effect on the behavior of the Condor in feeding. Thus 1 at 12:46 p.m., left my former location on the steep ridge, on the north side of sulphur canyon.

Before I had reached the bottom of the canyon to where I would be out of sight of the deer carcass, five Condors had hit on the ground and three of them were feeding on the deer carcass at 12:50 p.m., crossing the Canyon and working my way towards camp, through the oak timber that grows on the north slopes of sulphur creek below the level of our camp. I came out in an area where I could again see the soda-sulphur ridge and the area where the bait was put out. At least six Condors were on ground fighting over and dragging the deer remains about. I remained hidden watching the Condor for several minutes, but wanting to see if my presence, in clear view of where they were feeding would frighten the Condor, I walked out into an opening that is about —
3/4 of a mile from the bait and stood in full view. Even at this distance, and having seen us about on numerous occasions previously, all the condors immediately flew and circled above the bait as soon as they saw me. This was at 1:15 P.M.

After exposing myself and seeing the condor leave the ground, I then walked back into the timber out of sight. At 1:18 P.M., the condor returned, landed on the ground, and commenced feeding on the deer carcass.

I hiked towards the feeding condor, keeping hidden among the trees, until coming out on the ridge where the old galvanized tank sets on an open knoll about 1/8-mile south of our camp and about 1/4-mile north of where the condor were now feeding on the carcass of the deer that they had dragged downhill about one-hundred feet. Keeping behind this tank I crept up and stood behind this tank over which I could look at the condor without them seeing me; or at least without them recognizing me as anything to be concerned about for I could raise my head over the edge of this tank and watch these birds, with the binoculars, without disturbing them. Eleven condors, one of which was an immature ringed-neck bird, were now scattered on this hillside opposite me feeding, fighting, fluffing at the deer carcass, or just sitting and watching.

At 2:15 P.M. Two single engine jet planes passed over the sulphur ridge, a bit to the south, heading east. They were quite low and created a roaring sound as they passed a bit to the south of —
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Where the condor were feeding. None of the condor seemed disturbed at the noise caused by the passing of these planes. They did not fly nor stop feeding. A few moments before these planes came by, several condors were circling at about the place where they later passed. These low-flying, swift traveling, planes not only pose a problem to condors but also to the personnel who are those craft. For should they come in contact with a bird as large as a condor it would no doubt damage the plane.

At 2:10 Seven condor were feeding on the deer carcass that they had now pretty well cleaned up, except for the skin and had dragged down the hill northward about 250 feet. Some condors seemed the rulers of the situation and took command, at the carcass, whenever they chose. The ringed-neck bird showed some competitive activity and on one occasion was seen to peck towards an adult in a fighting attitude but was somewhat disregarded by the adult bird momentarily, and then driven away with the Peck of the others before. One adult seemed second from the bottom of the Peck order and would run at the ringed-neck bird each time it went to the carcass remains to feed. Other condors always ran this adult away after it commenced to feed after it had run the immature one back. The ring on the immature birds neck was not visible when the bird was on the ground unless it stretched its neck out to feed on the remain of the deer. It was then even visible to the naked eye at the two hundred yards distance it was from the birds. The red or reddish-pink of the lower neck covered up about one-half the neck proper. See below.
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The Condors now flew out of the Canyon, into which they had dropped the deer carcass and some returned to the area above from whence the carcass had come, and there fed on scraps and morsels that were scattered about the area. At 2:27 A.M. fourteen Condors were in the air at one time with none on the ground. At 2:30 A.M. these fourteen Condors, one of which was the Ringed-Neck bird were circling in two groups. Eight in one group were out to the southeast at about 4,000 feet above the ground and one quarter mile away from where the bait had been set out. These birds were very near, if not on, the exact route that the two Jet Planes followed when they passed by here, heading east towards Piru Lake area. Had this number of Condors been circling at that time in this same area, there would probably have been a collision. The other six Condors were circling moderately high above where the carcasses had been left on the Soda Sulfur Ridge.

At 2:40 A.M., the Condors were well scattered and most were circling high overhead. At 2:45 A.M., 6 Condors were seen heading north out of sight. Another Condor flew west over the top of Hopper Mountain. Three more Condor circled high and 50 north at 2:50 A.M. Three more Condor circled up and here west around south end of Hopper Mountain.

At 2:55 A.M. two Condor returned and circled about area where bait had been left. These two birds were seen in spiral up and fly out north over top of Hopper Mountain at 2:57 A.M.

No Condor in sight at 3:00 P.M. At 3:02 P.M. two Condor were observed circling high over area where bait -
had been put out. At 3:25 p.m. these two condors had dropped down and were now feeding on the remains of a Jackrabbit that had not been eaten during the day. These were the first condors to actually feed on one of the Jackrabbit Carcasses we had put out. Two more condors came in and circle above area where the two are feeding on the rabbit remains.

Two more condors came in at 3:33 p.m. and at this same time the two condors that were feeding on the Jackrabbit remains flew so that six condors were now circling together.

At 3:44 p.m. when we left Sulphur Creek and Hogger Mountain, two condor remained circling high above Hogger Mountain.

A summary of the day’s observations are as follows:

At least 18 raven fed on the Deer and Rabbit Carcasses we put out yesterday and this morning.

Condor came to the area where we had put out bait in scattered groups giving reason for belief that they represented many small groups from different locations.

A minimum of 14 condor were observed, only one of which was an immature hunched-necked bird.

Watching the cautiousness of these condors and the suspicion they showed towards anything unnatural, one must believe that they have been present when members of their species, as well as other birds such as Eagles and raven have been trapped. One develops the thinking after watching this shy and heavy manner they display, that only the most wary birds how survive.

Something about the deer carcass, half of which had been torn up and the skin removed, triggered the suspicion of the
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Condor Today.

Eagles and Condors are not mortal enemies. I doubt that condors are ever damaged by eagles. Eagles have probably saved many condor lives by going to bait first and becoming the victim of traps or guns that would have destroyed the condor had it come in first. Ravens and turkey vultures are probably a buffer species that protect condors against guns and traps.

Condors are suspicious of humans that act interested in their behaviour. Conversely, condors develop a confidence around humans that disregard them.

When leaving sulphur creek we stopped on the ridge where the bait had been put out and investigated what remained. One hind leg of the deer was virtually intact. This leg had the skin removed by the force of the automobile that hit it. The skin is all that remained of the other part of the deer. The condor had dislocated and removed all vertebra up to the base of the skull. One front leg was still intact with all meat missing. The eyes, tongue and nose had been eaten. Two jackrabbit carcasses still remained almost intact. I would think these must have been overlooked what with all the other bait around.

I would surmise that had we been collecting condors that we could have shot a good number today. Perhaps like
Claude Brown wrote in a letter to me regarding the exploits of one Arthur Wilcox collecting condors in the early days. Mr. Brown mentioned of having found a camp among the pines in the McChesney mountain area from which Mr. Wilcox shot condors from their roost. By always shooting the last condor to leave the roost in the morning Wilcox found the remaining birds would return to the same roost again in the evening.

Of particular interest is the report of condor sighting that I received from Mrs. Evalyn Tarmsworth of Clemson, who reports seeing four condors circling between the fork of Poco flat and Granite station road and where the Williams road leaves the Granite station road. This sighting occurred at 9:30 A.M. on February 26, 1964 and was likewise observed by members of the county road crew. The road crew said, to Mrs. Tarmsworth, that they had observed five condors near Rancheria about the first of February. (Letter dated Feb. 26, 1964)

The diagram below is a list of feather defects noticed in condors that came to the Sulphur creek of Hoover Mountain today. - - birds flying towards our overhead

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Left Side</th>
<th>Right Side</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5th Primary missing</td>
<td>6th Primary Missing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gap in center</td>
<td>Gap Side 3/8 way out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaps 1/2 way out</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gap in secondary 7/8 way out</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gap near tail</td>
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</tbody>
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A quick storm moved in last night and resulted in light showers falling before midnight. Clouds were still covering the horizon at sunrise, but were now moving from the northwest. A light frost was in evidence this morning and a gentle wind was blowing from the north.

As we drove down the Bitterwater Valley it was evident that only light showers had fallen in this area that needed rain so badly. As we passed by the mouth of Bitterwater Valley an immense flock of linnets flew from the roadside about two miles east of the Bitterwater Water Wells and flew over to the sterile, eroded, white foothills, that mark the western flank of Bitterwater Valley as it opens out upon the San Joaquin Valley Plains, and shone with the bare white areas and seemed to be feeding, or picking up gravel. As we stopped to photograph this tremendous flock of linnets they flew into the air and after gaining about 400 feet of elevation, broke into two separate flocks that momentarily separated themselves about 4/10 mile before converging again, one flock going west and the other east and then all swinging together in one disorganized group. Flocks of birds this large are rather difficult to describe and to estimate in number. I saw a covey of quail that I one time photographed in flight and from this photograph we arrived at a number of 800 quail. This flock of linnets we saw this morning were at least 100 times in number more than Ian's flock of quail.

More rain had fallen on the east side of the San Joaquin Valley to the east of Famous, Mariposa County. Also post rains had...
been more beneficent, for the range conditions found here were
not bad and where south hillsides had become quite dry and
the grasses have mostly matured and dried up, nevertheless the
fluffs and the North hillsides are green and support a good
quantity, and quality of forage grasses. The livestock in
this section are in good condition.

Bautista Aleman, a Basque Shepherd of M & R Sheep Company, who is
camped east of the Bakersfield, Woody, highway and about two
miles north of Woody—Granite Station—Famosa, Bakersfield, Crossroads,
said he had been watching constantly for Condor to come and
feed in his area, but he was quite sure none had been around.

Shepherd Aleman said that in Spain, in the high mountains, there is a
large bird like our Condor. He said that the shepherds shoot all big
birds in Spain and that all the Eagles have been killed off and are
never seen. I told him that Eagles are protected in the United
States. That the Eagle is the National emblem of this Country
and therefore the people do not want it destroyed. I also told him
that Condor are protected by law and that anyone found shooting
or molesting them shall be in trouble with the law. Aleman seemed quite
surprised to find this to be so. I doubt that he has ever been
advised regarding shooting of wild animals. That he how possesses
a 22 caliber rifle is evidenced by several spent 22 caliber cartridges
near the place where he walks in and out of the house-trailer in which
he lives. Most of the Shepherds in Central California are foreigners, or
aliens, from the Pyrenees mountains of Europe and most are of Basque lineage.
Few of these shepherds speak any English and none are acquainted with
our laws and regulations; most are transported to this Country via—
California Condor  Eben McMillan  29 February 1964

As far as I have been given no briefing relative to what is expected of them regarding responsibility, most of them have firearms in their trailer houses. None that I have talked with, in my limited Spanish, seem aware that they are violating their agreement as aliens in this country. I have never availed them of this knowledge directly, feeling it best to gather sufficient information on the matter and leaving the matter of making an issue of this problem up to those whose job it will be to evaluate these findings. With this in mind I feel safe in stating that until alien shepherds are advised of their responsibilities in this matter of bearing arms in this country, and their employers who are no doubt responsible for the behaviour of these persons who are contracted under their care while in the United States, and all other irresponsible Native shepherds who display irresponsible attitudes towards our native wildlife species in their use of firearms, are brought to task for their acts of destructiveness towards our native wildlife, then Eagles and Condor can never be properly protected.

The type of food for these birds, offered by dead sheep, is such that in the range of Condor, and many Eagles as well, shepherds have ample opportunities to shoot them while feeding on the carcasses of dead sheep, well within gunshot range of the camps of these men. It should be a simple matter to prevent the possession of firearms by alien shepherds. Native shepherds may pose more of a problem to control, in their use of firearms. But most of these people, both alien and citizen, are good people, and I am sure would want to do what is right. It is just that they have never been told of what is right and what is wrong in these matters.
I saw a Golden Eagle circling east of the road about five miles southwest of Woody. Stopping at the home of Dorothy Albitre that is about two miles west of Woody I found, upon inquiry, that she had lost no lambs this year. She said that it was about one year ago now that something was killing her lambs. She felt sure it was an Eagle. I was somewhat concerned about this upon hearing of it last year for with Eagles on her list of enemies I was afraid condor might come in to feed on her dead sheep and get shot, by her, for an Eagle or prevailed upon Mrs. Albitre to inform me should any large bird be seen feeding on any dead sheep or other animals, so that I could go and investigate the cause of the animal’s death and try to help her out should we find that her lambs were being killed by Eagles. This she consented to do and reassured me this morning that she would call me as soon as she found signs of predation on her sheep.

Several Turkey Vultures were in the tops of the Eucalyptus trees near the post office in Woody. Several of these birds were also seen circling a hilltop about one mile west of Woody. Dorothy Albitre said they had been in the Woody area for about a week.

Enroute from Woody to Glennville a encountered some snow on the road at the top of the grade it lay about five inches deep in the road. Arriving in Glennville about 10:15 AM I talked with Fredland and Evelyn Farnsworth who own the shopping center in Glennville as well as their ranch property about three miles south of the town. Mrs.
California Condor  Ebenezer McMillan  24 February 1964

Farnsworth informed me that she had mailed me a postcard on 18 February 1964 telling me of seeing more Condor in the Glennville — Woolly area. She thought the reason they were seeing more Condor than before in winter was that more people had become conscious of Condor and were watching for them now. She also wondered if it would be possible than Condor might nest on the slopes of Blue Mountain that stands about seven or eight miles north-west of Glennville, She had developed this thought after seeing Condor circling in that area on numerous occasions and also watching them go in that direction from her ranch home. I explained to her that were someone to come in and tell her that a Condor was found nesting in the barn of Mrs. Farnsworth, that I would go immediately to investigate, for after seeing how Condor would come and-and and roost, her ranch home last fall, I was ready to believe anything about Condor. I did this, more or less, so as not to damp her interest in Condor and her concern for their welfare and she could be right.

Mrs. Farnsworth told me that the road crew that saw the same Condor than she did and wrote me about on February 20, had actually observed the three before she and Freeland did. For she said that as she and Freeland approached Round Hill, that is just east of the entrance, where Ed Williams and Jim Ben Williams Glennville turn off the Bakersfield road, they saw the Condor circling above Round Hill on the east side. As they proceeded on, around Round Hill, on the south side, Levitt the road crew bailed them down and pointed to the three Condor that were circling above the south side of Round Hill. As they watched the bird they had seen on the north side of —
The hill came and joined the three circling south of the hilltop. I then drove to this area where Mrs. Earsworth had seen the condor on 26 February and went to the home of Edna Williams, seeing a Golden Eagle circling the South Top and Round Williams. I turned off the main road, Edna Williams had seen, nor heard of, no condor. I also visited at the home of Jim Ben and Nona Williams. They had not seen a condor of late although they had heard of Frank Stockton seeing condor in the Granite Station area on 12 and 13 February 1964. (See letter from Frank Stockton dated Feb. 13-1964.)

Jim Ben Williams thought that the long dry spell that had matured most of the grass on the south-facing exposures in the Granite Station area had created a situation whereby more rain now would do little good in the lowlands although benefiting the forage grasses a great deal at the higher elevations. Where the summer range was still mostly frozen over and would commence to snow soon now with the coming of warmer weather.

I left the Granite Station area at 3:00 p.m., heading west, stopping at the home of Mrs. Moore, that is near the Woody Tamasca road. She noted her husband had seen, nor heard of, condor. They had noticed that Buzzards were in about a week early having come by their area about 12 February instead of the usual arrival date of February 19th that Mrs. Moore claimed as the usual return date of Buzzards to her-
As I passed down the canyon that leads to Famoso, I noticed a camp where sheep-shearing are waiting for the weather to clear so that they can commence removing wool from the sheep.

I was home at 7:00 p.m. Some clouds still remained in the sky but generally the storm seemed to have subsided.
Some clouds still were about from a weak storm front that passed through this area yesterday. No appreciable moisture was left by this storm.

Range conditions are very poor east of the San Juan river and Cholame valley. The Bitterwater Valley is without any green grass and what dry forage remains is limited to very short and sparse brome grass. Most crops are in bad shape. The area from the mouth of the Bitterwater Valley on to Lost hills is completely void of any vegetation. Some places did not even germinate grass seed this spring.

From Bakersfield, Calif. I phoned John Rofer who had seen no condor for several months. He said that a man who worked for him on his property in the Battlesnake Grinde area about fifteen miles N.E. of Bakersfield claimed to have seen a condor there on March 31, 1964. Rofer said this man should know condor having been raised in the Rancheria area.

From Bakersfield, Calif. I also phoned J.B. Williams of Granite Station who had neither heard nor seen of condor since reporting sightings to me early in the year. J.B. said the feed was drying fast in all areas below Granite Station and that the south slopes were drying above. He said they had lots of feed and their cattle were all in very good shape. He thought the sheep had left the foothills below woody and Granite Station several weeks ago, after having stayed in that area longer than they usually do.

Also phoned Mrs. Glen Precoud who lives below Oak Flat Lookout on South end of Greenhorn Mountain. She nor any
California Condor  Eben McMillan  22 April 1964

Of her family had seen Condor in 1964, she did say that the
Turkey Buzzards were back and could be seen most anytime of
day now in her area.

I went to the office of agricultural commissioner of Kern
County and from there talked to Mr. Ben Easley on the phone, he
being at his poison mixing warehouse at Winter Field that
is about fifteen miles north of Bakersfield, just off highway
99. Mr. Easley manages all pest and rodent control activities
performed by Kern County. He told me his crews were just
this week getting started on poisoning squirrels with compound
1080 and that activities were now limited to small problems
that were being taken care of. He thought that his regular
squirrel poisoning crews would not get lined out until after
the last of May. Mr. Easley promised to keep me posted on any
sizeable jobs he would be doing and did say that the Woody
Ranch had ordered 400 pounds of strychnine poisoned grain
for use in poisoning kangaroo rats. He thought this poison grain
would be ready for application next week. The Woody Ranch is near
the Town of Woody in North Central Kern County. I must try
to check this poison operation when it is done to determine the
number of dead rats on the ground following the placing of
the poison.

Mr. Easley also stated that if the San Emidio Ranch
did any poisoning it would be in the fall when they
were not so busy. The Tejon Ranch, he thought, would
not do any poisoning this year. He said they had their
squirrels well under control.  
California Condor  
Eben McMillan  
22 April 1964

From Bakersfield I called Jim Toland of the U.S. Forest Service Office in Bakersfield who informed me that no sightings of Condor had been turned into his office in 1964. He also told me that he had read the press release by Audubon on the Condor Survey, in the Bakersfield Californian of yesterday. Mr. Toland said that Helen King would not be at Oak Flat Lookout this coming summer, but that another lady was taking this post that should be activated sometime after the first week in May and that the lookout on Breckinridge Mountain would be the same lady as was the last season and this lookout would probably not be activated until after June 1, 1964.

Mr. Toland asked that I notify him whenever I might be going to either of these two lookouts, Oak Flat or Breckinridge Mountain, so that he could brief the lookouts there as to the importance of my visits.

The Secretary in the office of the Agricultural Commissioner of Kern County told me of hearing of the Condor News Release over one of the Bakersfield Radio Stations within the last few days.

I drove to Arvin, Calif. where I stopped at the Standard Oil Company Service Station on the east edge of this town to get a New Tire for my bike. Mr. Evans Boyce, attendant and Manager of this station, even having lived in Arvin for 20 years, had never heard of Condor many times during this period, and he having spent considerable time in the hills east of Arvin hunting deer still had never had the opportunity of observing a Condor. Just a few weeks—
California Condor  Eben Ingham  22 April 1964

Ago a car load of elderly ladies came to his station for a new tire. This tire was to replace one that had gone flat on their car while they were watching for condor along the roadside East of Arvin. These ladies were somewhat discouraged at not having seen a condor but felt better when Mr. Borse told them of his not having seen one in 20 years of living in Arvin.

I drove to the home of Jack Janzen who works for the Tejon Ranch and lives in one of their houses about one mile East of Arvin. I have been misspelling Mr. Janzen’s name in referring to him formally in this study. I thinking his name was spelt Jentsen. Jack Janzen had seen three condor on March 23, 1964 at 11:00 A.M. while he and another fellow were mending a barbed-wire fence on the Sheep Trail grade about three miles SE of Arvin and about 1/2 mile up the grade from the bottom of the Mountain. He said the three condor circled above them for some minutes and were close enough at times so that he could have killed one of them with a rifle had he been shooting at them and been able to hit it. Mr. Janzen did not notice which direction the condor left the area when they passed from sight.

Mrs. Janzen told me of a man and his son coming to her home about three weeks ago and asking for permission to go onto Tejon Ranch lands in order to look for condor. They told her they had seen condor in the white-wolf area a week before. They told her they were from the Audubon Society.
California condor  
Eben McChillian  
22 April 1964

but did not say from what area they came. She told them that trespassing was forbidden on Tejon Ranch lands.

Mrs. Janzen also told me of being at a service station in Arvin last week and hearing a person who said he was trapping and poisoning coyotes in the mountains of the Tejon Ranch, go to great ends to describe how much a threat to human welfare coyotes were, and how they killed sheep in great numbers and calves and deer as well as being a menace to human health by carrying hydrophobia. Mrs. Janzen told him she doubted coyotes killed sheep that were properly cured for and that she thought sheep did as much harm in overgrazing range as coyotes did in killing.

I drove from Arvin to Tejon Flats and put my bed-roll down for the night. The sky was clear but a brisk wind was blowing.
California Condor  Eben McMillan  23 April 1964

About 3:00 A.M. I was awakened by light rain falling on my face. The sky was overcast and the wind had changed to the NW.

At daybreak few birds were heard calling. The grass, of which there was a good ground cover on Tejon Flats, was all dry. The cloud cover was breaking away in the west. A brisk, cool breeze blew from that direction.

At sunrise a flock of 12 or 15 purple martins flew above, heading North with a few swallows accompanying them. Some meadowlarks sang, and a few horned larks flew overhead calling and at times singing.

I drove to Tejon Oil Field of Standard Oil Company and chatted with Joe Brown who oversees these wells for that company. Mr. Brown said he had seen no more condors in the area since the last ones he had reported to me the early part of the winter. Mr. Brown said he had been wondering what had become of the condor.

I talked to Ray Liles who with another person was feeding some bulls at the corral below oil headquarters of Tejon Ranch. He had not seen nor heard of any condor being in the area for some time. Mr. Liles told me I could catch up to the ranch cowboys who were leaving the barn about five minutes before and would be going out towards the south past the Gum Trees. I drove up past the ranch and overtook the cowboys as they rode up the ridge to the south of the Gum trees. Gib McKenzie had seen no condor lately nor had any of the other 8 cowboys. They said that few cattle had been dying since the
calves quit coming. This he thought might have some bearing on why condors were not being seen on Tejon.

The lower foothills and on out on the flats of Tejon Ranch was all dried grass, but from the level of the Old Ranch Headquarters on up the mountain grasses were still green and plentiful.

I drove to a point on road that overlooks the Old Tejon Ranch and the country below. I took several photographs here. While photographing I saw an Eagle (Golden) coming around the hillsides below me and across a canyon and away from sight behind a hill. Walking out on the promontary on which I had parked, I looked down into the Canyon into where the Eagle had gone out of sight. I then saw an Eagle dropping down Canyon and going away from me as well as leaving an area where several blue oak trees were standing. Thinking this Eagle's movements unusual I drove back down the grade to where I could look into the above mentioned Oaks with the glasses. Here I made out one young Eagle about three weeks old, on a nest in the upper third of one of these oaks that stood below and about 200 yards from the roadway. No doubt the cowboys, who had ridden past this area after I had talked to them, had frightened the adult Eagle from the nest to which it was returning when I first saw it. After watching the young Eagle staggering about on the nest for several minutes I left the area for Frazier Park.

At Chuchupate Ranger Station, in Cuddy Canyon I
California condor  Eben McMillan  23 April 1964

I met Don Hoots who had just been transferred here from the
Mountains in area of Northern California and who was stationed
here now at Chuchupate Station as assistant District Ranger.

Mr. Hoots has never seen a condor nor had he heard of the
present condor survey. Bob Roberts, fire control officer of
Chuchupate Station, was there and had a duplicate of
the condor records from Thorne Point ran off for my
files. Bob Roberts told of seeing two condors in the
Lone Oak Valley about three weeks ago. Roberts gave no reason
why he had not recorded and filed this observation in the file
in which District Ranger Gary Pilsco had told me he would
have all condor sightings in his district filed. Ranger
Pilsco is now away on annual leave.

Glen Algola, one of the personnel at Chuchupate Ranger
station and who was in the office with Hoots and Roberts,
told me of seeing a condor attack a young deer some
years ago in the area east of Gorman. The Condor hit
the fawn and knocked it down on two occasions. Occasion
After knocking the fawn down for the second time, the
condor alighted near the bush in which the fawn
had fallen. The Condor walked about the bush looking
in as if hunting for the fawn. As this went on the
fawn ran out of the bush and up, and out of sight, over
the hill. The Condor tried to follow the fawn but in that
it had to drop downhill to get momentum it never got
up the hill in time to follow where the fawn had gone.
I enter this observation only as an example of...
California Condor

Evelyn McMillan
29 April 1964

How well meaning people will get things twisted up. Mr. A. Zola said there was no doubt the bird being a Condor that hit the fawn as he could see the white in its wings. If A. Zola did see these things then it is more than likely that the bird attacking the fawn was an immature Golden Eagle.

Bob Roberts told me he had seen Condors quite frequently last May in the area to the west of West Big Pine Lookout at the headwaters of the Sespe River. He and A. Zola also said they have seen Condors on McMillion Mountain or peak, that lies between Alamo and Cablesome mountains. These last observations were made last summer and fall.

Don Roberts told me that Jeff Calhoun would not be back on Frazier Mountain as lookout attendant this summer. He said Mr. Calhoun would be working at some other job about the Ranger station. Mr. Roberts also informed me that cattle would probably not be grazed on Frazier Mountain this summer as Jack Halvorsen and associates who had been running cattle there the last several summers had not renewed their lease this year. Most see Cary Ellingsbo, who attends to these cattle and see when the reason for their not renewing their lease again this year. Ellingsbo had two animals shot on Frazier Mountain last year season and sent, or mailed, a statement to California Division of Fish and Game for the cost of these animals. I have a copy of this statement. It will be interesting to see Ellingsbo's side of this story of why no cattle will be on Frazier Mountain.
I drove to Lebec and inquired of Condor at the offices of Tejon Ranch company there. Walter Zinuth had heard of no condor recently. I was told here that John Grigsby, the resident engineer of Tejon Ranch and the man with whom we first became associated with at the start of this study on Tejon Ranch, had passed away about two months ago. I applied for, and was given a key, and permit, to enter the Mendipiru lease on Tejon Ranch from April 28 to May 1, inclusive.

No one was home at San Emigdio Ranch as I passed there en route home. At Taft I stopped and purchased groceries for a trip into Big Pine mountain area with Jan tomorrow.

Very strong winds were blowing from the west as I passed from McIlwrick to Blackwells Corner. Sand was blowing across roadway in the North and South fellridge areas. Great clouds of dust were also blowing in the Blackwells corner area. Some rain fell on the windshield near Blackwells Corner and Gladys McMillan told of light snow falling here at home before I arrived. It was cold.
A light frost was evident this morning at sunrise. A cool north wind blew and a few clouds were visible in the east as soon as I left for the Curama Valley at 7:30 A.M. Crops on the west side of Carrisa Plains northwest of Simmer show fall, but the east side of the plains seems doomed.

At 9:30 A.M. a Leconte Thrasher flew across the roadway about one and one-half mile northwest of the Dewey Wetling Ranch. At 9:45 A.M. six Buzzards were flushed from the carcasses of two Badgers that had been shot about a week before about one-quarter mile west of the south end of Soda Lake. Three Ravens were also feeding on the Badger carcasses. The Buzzards and Ravens flew off towards the east.

At 10:15 A.M. we stopped to talk with two County Road maintenance men and a Cowboy working for Marcus Rudnick near the south end of the plains. These men all said they had never seen Condor. One of the road men said that about five years ago, on a lake near Gallup, New Mexico, he and his wife were rowing out to fish one morning when they saw something resembling another boat on the lake. Knowing no other boat was supposed to be on this lake this man and his wife rowed towards this object. When they approached withing good seeing distance this object turned out to be a large bird that, upon seeing them, rose from the water with great flapping of wings and hitting the water with its feet in setting momentum, then after becoming...
California Condor

Evan McMillan

24 April 1964

Airborne this bird circled them two or three times and then set down on the water again with a great splash. "This was one of those Condors," was the man's ending statement.

When told we were studying Condors, the cowboy stated that you had better catch some of those that were left and get them cooped up in cages, as if cow people had no time to be fooling around with any bird.

Arrived at Coyama Ranger Station at 11:40 A.M. The Coyama Valley is as dry, or if possible, drier than the southern coastal plains. Ranger Bill Morse was in his office.

We chatted with him at some length on several matters, particularly Condor observations turned in by lookout personnel. He thought Condor sightings had been more numerous during the last summer and fall season than had been the case in the past. Mr. Morse thought this could have been caused by more emphasis being placed on Condor than before and therefore more interest taken in watching by lookout personnel; but on second thoughts he thought this not to be the case. Ranger Morse gave late Condor sighting records to Jan.

Ranger Morse also gave an account of the numbers of people who had been stranded during a storm at Easter week, in the Big Pine, alumna saddle, and Santa Barbara Potrero areas. Something like 20 people were cooped up in a Laman Buena Station Cabin, a forest service house trailer in Santa Barbara Potrero - Judell - area was filled with people and the Sespe Cut blockhouse guard station.
California Condor  Eben McMillan  24 April 1964

was overrun with stranded campers. It seems that a very
heavy snow fell at the higher elevations and the weather turned quite
cold. One man froze to death who, with his companion, had
become stalled on their bikes and in trying to walk out
the one had become castrated and being left by his partner
who went on ahead for help, was found frozen stiff when
help came for him early the next morning.

Ranger Morse stated that the lookout on Incir Howson Peak had observed
few or any Condors last year. He thought the Condor movement pattern
had shifted so that old established flight routes were no
 longer being used. He thought this showed up in the numerous sightings
from Cuyama Peak Lookout last year.

Ranger Morse evidently had formally recorded two nesting
observations of Condor. One of which came from Helen Thalts
who is secretary to Mr. Morse. She said that a Condor nest site
was on the east side of the Cuyama Valley across from where
she lives near the mouth of Tinta Canyon. The absurdity of this
statement demanded no further discussion of the matter in order to
save this lady from embarrassment. We got news from Ranger Morse
in order to go to Big Pine Mountain and left Cuyama at 12:10 PM.

We drove west from Cuyama and then took foothill road that
took south through farm fields, stopping at length with the Shepherd
Julian who was camped about one mile west of Old Cuyama, and
who told us of seeing four Condors feeding on a dead sheep about
one mile to the northwest of where he now camped and about
ten days or two weeks ago. He pointed out the place where he had
been camped at the time he saw the four Condors and told us —
Another shepherd was camped there now with a flock of sheep. We ate our lunch in Julian's trailer-hoose after which we drove to Shepherd's camp at which place Julian had seen the four Condor.

The shepherd at this camp was a Basque who had been in this country and Mexico for the last forty years. He had herded sheep in central California a good deal but had never seen Condor to know them. He said that Coyotes had never been much of a problem to sheep he had herded in California nor in Nevada where he had also put in several seasons herding sheep. Also, he had never been in an area where Eagles had bothered sheep. He did say that on many occasions he had seen old, or sick, ewes lie down and be attacked by Ravens that would pick the eyes of the old, or sick, ewes causing her to go blind. Otherwise he had not been bothered with predators among any of the flocks of sheep he had herded.

This old Shepherd also stated that the winters in Nevada being so cold at times that the thermometer would get down to minus ten or fifteen degrees, still did not seem as cold to him as did the winters here in the Coyama Valley. He also said he would be on the lookout for Condor now that he knew they were in this area.

We jugged up at old Coyama and then drove up Santa Barbara canyon and out along ridge road to Alamar Guard station where we looked over the facilities for camping there. Tonight, they drove on towards Big Pine mountain for a distance of about a mile where we were prevented from going further by hard banks of snow that covered the road in protected...
California Condor  
Eben Dickinson  
24 April 1964

We approached the end of our navigation, having hiked on around Big Pine Mountain to where we could see out towards the West. Upon reaching this point, we found the weather closing in and a light snow commencing to fall so we returned to the car and drove back to Alamar Cabin where we put up for the night with a good fire to warm things up and cook our evening steak.

All facets of Condor study were fully discussed before we retired for the night.

It was decided that if tomorrow turned fair we would hike to West Big Pine Lookout by 4:00 AM and spend the day in that area searching for Condor. In the event the weather turned bad we thought it best to return home rather than get caught in a snowstorm that might block the road going out for three or four days.

A bear had broken out the north window of the Alamar Cabin and making his way inside had left it a mess inside. We patched the window with Dan's air mattress and repaired everything else. We spent a very comfortable night in out of the howling wind and powder snow that fell.
California Condor  Eben McMillan  25 April 1964

At 3:00 A.M. the moon was shining brightly but by
5:00 A.M. bad weather had closed in again and a cold
front kept visibility to a minimum. a breakfast was set
until 8:00 A.M. for the weather to clear. No sign of clearing
at 8:15 A.M. So we drove back to the Santa Barbara
Potreos on Sierra Madre Ridge where the clouds were higher.
and the wind not so cold. Here we studied the "Re-veget"-
activities that are being conducted by the U.S. Forest
Service in attempting to tear out sections of brush
along the top of this mountain ridge and convert these
de-brushed spots into grassland. From all evidence
it seemed to us that the money being spent to convert these areas
could never in any way be justified on the amount of livestock
forage they would produce were they even to be developed
to a point whereby their productivity would match that of the
best soils in the Potreos nearby. And I think this could ever
be accomplished. Should be out of the question, for most
of these spots being cleared of brush are now, or have been
brushlands by virtue of the fact that the soils underlying
them are mostly porous limestone rock on which the only
soil to be found is the direct result of the residue from
the brush that has grown here over the years as deposited
and support brush for the very reason that brush is all that will
grow here over a long period of time. Once these soils are
eroded away by either wind or water, not even brush
will grow. Thus it appears that this development going
on here is even a folly and a price.
At one point on this Re-vegetation operation of the U.S. Forest Service we followed a line where barbed-wire and posts had been scattered from the ridge top down to within a mile and one-half of the bottom of Sesquoc River and within two miles of Sesquoc Falls. This fence only seems to be dividing one brush patch from another, and seems to be opening up an area, with the building of roads and trails, that could be of great interest to the welfare of Condors. For these roads and trails being built in order to construct this fence will allow automotive travel within a problem distance of a known Condor roost and possibly a Condor nest site. What the purpose of this fence is meant to accomplish it is hard for me to understand. One thing for sure and that is that the number of cattle that will be pastured on those developed Re-vegetation spots with the accompanying expensive fences will never pay for this work even if they were on pasture on those spots at $20 dollars per head per month.

If this operation is not the best example of boondoggling of public funds that has ever been promoted then I would like to see one that would beat it. I think the public should demand a thorough appraisal of this whole affair before more funds are squandered and more areas laid waste that at best will never be more than brushland.

We lounged at the end of the proposed fence right of way looking down on Sesquoc Falls and the Sesquoc river. Three Red-Tailed Hawks gambolled about in the air in front of us.
Severals Ravens passed over our heads as they played about over the Sesquic Valley. One Turkey Buzzard came up out of Sesquic River Gorge and sailed eastward towards the Cuyama Valley. After lunch we hiked back to our pickup on top of the ridge and drove to Santa Barbara Canyon Ranch of Elizabeth Reyes.

Mrs. Reyes was much disturbed regarding promotion of a forthcoming, or planned, Sierra Madre Roadway that would traverse the crest of the Sierra Madre Ridge from Santa Barbara Potrero to Miranda Pines on the northwest end of Sierra Madre Ridge. Entrance to this roadway, from the south, would be through Santa Barbara Canyon therefore passing through the yard of Mrs. Reyes whose home and buildings are situated in a narrow part of the canyon where a roadway would have to pass within 100 feet of Mrs. Reyes home. She was also worried about running cattle on Santa Barbara — Salisbury and Montgomery Potreros where in the past she has experienced many problems with unauthorized trespassers disturbing and exciting the cattle she pastures on these potreros during the late spring and summer months. Last Quail season or during a weekend in either November or December, Mrs. Reyes was put to a great amount of inconvenience by two hunters who came through or under the chain that the Forest Service has placed south of Big Pine Mountain to prevent automotive or vehicular traffic beyond this point into the San Rafael Primitive area. These men were in a jeep and continued on through the primitive area and out along Sierra Madre Ridge.
they hunted Quail until running out of gasoline. These two men then hiked to a place near Salisbury Patterson and took a truck belonging to a man who was doing brush clearing for the U.S. Forest Service with his Bulldozer and drove this truck to the locked gate in Santa Barbara Canyon that is near the Reyes Ranch. Here they left the truck they had taken without permission of the owner and hiked the short distance to Mrs. Reyes' house where after awakening her they were allowed to remain overnight in a house trailer Mrs. Reyes had at her Ranch. This was about midnight. In the morning Mrs. Reyes phoned Ranger Morse in Cuyama who came and took the two men back to Cuyama Ranger Station where he told them, in the presence of Gertrude Reyes, he was going to cite them for trespass for when asked by Ranger Morse how they got by the chain across the roadway south of Big Pinea Lookout they admitted having driven their Jeep under this chain. Mrs. Reyes said that Morse took these two men and left her Ranch heading for Cuyama. Later they were returned to her Ranch by an assistant of Ranger Morse, who although being supposed to follow these two men onto the Sierra Madre Ridge to where their Jeep was and there get the licence number of this Jeep. However the Forest Service assistant left the two men at the Reyes Ranch and he returned to Cuyama. The two men then borrowed gasoline from Mrs. Reyes and returned to their Jeep in the Truck they had taken without authorization...
and here they left the truck parked even though Mrs. Reyes had warned them repeatedly to be sure and return the truck to the same place it had been when they first took it. This these men did not do. Instead, they left the truck near where their jeep had been stalled when running out of gasoline, and driving to the locked gate at the Reyes Ranch in Santa Barbara Canyon and there unlocking this gate, with a key they had obtained from the Forest Service Office in Coyana that morning, and passing on through this gate drove on down the roadway towards Coyama Valley, Ruiser Morse, upon finding his man did not go with these men to their jeep to get the license number of this vehicle, called Mrs. Reyes instructing her to get the license number of this Jeep when it passed her Ranch. As the two men passed Mrs. Reyes home, having already driven through the locked gate, Mrs. Reyes instructed her son, Freddie Reyes, to follow the men below her ranch and let them through the cattle guard that prevents automobiles from passing by having a padlocked cable stretched across it. Freddie Reyes, following the two men in the jeep arrived at the in sight of the locked cattle guard just in time to see these two men drive their jeep under this cable and continue on down Santa Barbara Canyon without anyone having their license number.
Mrs. Reyos then told us how the man, who was doing the brush clearing with his bulldozer near Salisbury, Pottero, when arriving on the ground to see if his work found his truck missing and returning to the Reyos Ranch was much worried as to its whereabouts. Upon being filled in on happenings of the day previous he returned and after hunting for some time found his truck several miles from where he had formally left it, at a location the two trespassers had left it after returning to their camp with the gasoline.

Mrs. Reyos is of the opinion that the two men who trespassed on primitive area, took another’s automobile or truck, without authorization of the owner, and took gasoline from Mrs. Reyos without payment generally disturbed the general area, had been fined in Court. It will be interesting to see how this episode actually turned out. One thing is sure—One can easily see why Mrs. Reyos would not be in favor of seeing the Little Blackwell Ridge Ranch becoming a several public amusement.

A return to Fort and Blackwells via Fort South Bellridges to Blackwells corner great numbers of Antelope. Ground squirrels were observed feeding from the grasses that still remain even along the roadway right to the way, most of these ground squirrels were in masses. Between south and North Bellridge oil fields a distance of about five miles, the numbers of these squirrels was estimated at more than Twenty per hundred feet of roadway.
California condor  Eden McMillan  25 April 1964

My son Gregory told me this evening that Chappy Still, with whom he had worked today branding calves for Adam Grant, reported having seen a condor last Thursday, April 25, 1964, feeding on the carcass of a dead sheep on the knoll behind Adam Grant barn, in company with about ten buzzards. This at about 11:00 AM. Mr. Still told Gregory that the buzzards and condor all flew when he approached the area where they were feeding on the dead sheep. When he retreated from this area, the buzzards soon returned on a feed on the carcass, but the condor was not seen again.

Gregory told me that he had questioned Chappy Still on how he knew the red bird was a condor. Mr. Still's answer to him was that the condor was about four times as big as the buzzards were and when it raised its wings to fly, the big white letters could be seen under its wings. This was a good description of a condor.
To keep the records straight - all records from this date on will be kept according to Pacific Daylight Savings Time.

california condor  Ebeu McMillan  26 April 1964

I drove down Palo Prieta canyon at 10:30 A.M. heading for the Cholame flats. The morning was clear, bright, calm and warm. The lower Palo Prieta slope was seen leaving the west face as I drove past. This bird was circling above Ortega spring when I drove on out of the area. At least fifty young squirrels (Beachel) were seen running about on the flat across from the old word place at the mouth of Palo Prieta canyon. The Cholame flats couldn’t look any worse. R. O. Jack Co. are putting out hay to the cattle, but the hay is of poor quality and many of the cattle do not seem to be holding their strength. I talked with the three men who were scattered, a truckload of hay on the flats at the bottom of lower grade. They said they had not heard of when the management planned on moving the cattle, if ever. A dead calf was observed on the hay that had been put out the previous day. Carcasses of other calves could be seen buried under the hay. On the ground about one half mile east of the foot of lower grade 31 crows were hopping about, and perched, over the carcass of a cow that had been dead about two weeks.

A Swainson’s hawk was seen to fly in and land in the evening sun to eat on the hillside about one quarter mile SE of the foot of lower grade at 11:30 A.M. Soon another Swainson’s hawk dropped in from above and alighting on the back of the former, copulation occurred with the top or presumably male bird, gently flapping its wings to maintain balance. Following copulation the upper hawk flew out and circled for a while before alighting -
A California Condor, E. californicus, flew from its nest on a hillside.

At 1:20 P.M., an adult Golden Eagle came from the south, high on fixed wings, and continued sailing on northward until out of sight to the unaided eye.

At 12:30 a Cooper's Hawk sailed northward over where P was sitting on a hillside above the feet of level grade. After passing over my position this hawk circled for several minutes before continuing onward, but following the west side of the Cholame Valley in its northward course.

At 12:55 two adult Red Tailed Hawks came and circled above me rather low before gaining altitude as they spiraled upward and then flew westward, alighted in the tops of separate oak trees. One of these hawks was seen later dropping down the canyon that runs to the west and parallel to level grade.

Four separate nest sites of Burrowing Owl were noted on the Cholame Flats. This is more than I have noted in this area for many years.

Since I was last on Cholame flats, on 23 February 1964, there have been many cattle die. I noticed the carcasses of seven cows that had died during this time and at least that many calves. Surely there would have been at least equal this amount of cows and calves that would have died where I could not see them. This supply alone would have kept 25 or 30 condor well fed for 60 days, assuming that other ranches in the area had lost this amount between them. Then the food supply for condor in this area would have been glutted.

Driving back up into Pinto Canyon on my way home at 3:15 P.M. I saw twelve deer deer all lying under trees close by the roadway.
I drove 3 miles east of my home where a flock of sheep have been grazing on volunteer wheat on land owned by Ernest Still in choice valley. The shepherd caring for these sheep informed me he had seen a condor several days before that had alighted near the carcass of a cow that had been dead a long time. This shepherd could speak no English and was dissatisfied with conditions here in the United States and stated that he did not care to return again. He particularly did not like the privation experienced by Spanish shepherds here and he said he did not like keeping sheep as he had been a farmer in Spain and had done little sheep herding before.

The above shepherd told me that he had experienced no problems among his sheep due to coyotes. He also told me that in Spain there is a wild dog that is smaller than the coyote. An American Car that rovers domestic fowl at times.

This shepherd, who tends a flock belonging to Joe Esinos, was very dissatisfied with his lot in this country. He had spent most of his time here isolated from other people. This he does not like. He thought he had been misrepresented to him when he came to this country. He also told me that coyotes have never been a problem among any sheep he had hand in this country.
California Condor
Eben Macmillan
25 April 1864

It was overcast when we arose at sunrise and a brisk, and cool west wind was blowing. I packed up and drove down Bitterwater Valley at 8:00 AM. Cattle in small numbers still remain on the stark grassless plain. They still looked strong and healthy even though no forage was in evidence. This is, when overgrazed lands are damaged the most. It seems that cattle numbers, regardless of how many do little damage to soil when it is covered with vegetation, but when it is bare and coverless, then even a few cattle or sheep on a large area can do untold damage. The disturbance of the soil with each hoofstep sets up a cumulative situation that tends to generate its own problems from there on until rain or moisture of some sort stabilizes this area again, and in aggravated instances, sometimes moisture does not stop the blowing of the land. The soil east of Blackwells Corner is always even before summer, blowing. If more rain fails to come to germinate the Russian thistle, this area could become a chronic dust bowl.

Ten miles east of Blackwells Corner is the Red Headed Shepherd who has been camped in this area since January. He told me that several sheep of his flock have died lately but that he has only seen Buzzards and Rabid feeding on them. This shepherd is Spanish, not Basque, and does not speak Basque, nor does his name is Juligencio Beaumont.

I photographed this man with Kod. II on Roll 3. He has been in America two and one-half years. He claims not to have saved any money. The range he is pasturing is badly overgrazed. It being low enough in the foothills that the rains did not come here in sufficient quantity to make a good season.
California condor  Eben McMillan  28 april 1964

Near Poso creek oil fields on road from Famosa to Woody, I found and photographed the carcass of a buzzard that evidently had been hit by a car as it fed on the carcass of a cottontail rabbit that I found lying on the opposite side of the road. One seldom sees buzzards killed on the roadways even though they feed in this way quite a bit.

Past the Poso creek oil fields I stopped at the home of Russell Lawrence Moore. Both he and Mrs. Moore were home. Neither of these people had seen or heard of condor lately. Mr. Moore said he was thinking about the only ten minutes before I drove up to his house. His thinking of the was triggered by him seeing a buzzard sitting on a power pole that at first sight looked big enough to be a condor, but upon closer observation he saw it was a buzzard. Mr. Moore told me of seeing 45 condor about twelve years ago in a canyon about three miles west by northwest from his home on Famosa-Woody Road. He said it was in August and squirrels were being poisoned in that area at that time. He said he had taken several children who were at his house on a joy ride down this canyon where water runs and lots of tooles grow. The forty five condor were clicking low over this area and remained circling long enough for Mr. Moore to see a-
California Condor

E. B. Chamberlain

28 April 1969

good Count of them. He remembered this date by the fact that someone had died in the family, which was the reason for the family gathering at his home with the resultant group of children there.

Mr. Moore also told me of shooting a condor, but had already been wounded and was unable to fly, with a shotgun, about seven years ago. He came upon this condor as it was walking hurriedly up a hillside about three miles southwest by west of his home. He said he shot the condor to put it out of its misery.

He said the outer third of one wing was shattered as though it had been hit with a rifle bullet. After he shot this condor he cut one wing off from close to the body and took it home. This wing remained in his garage for a long time.

"Now, what should I have done in a case of that kind?" Mr. Moore asked me. "I knew no one to notify and somebody told me I could have been arrested for shooting the condor." I told him that so long as I was around, should he find any sign of a sick, or wounded, or dead, condor, to phone me collect and I would see that the proper authorities would be notified. And his wife said they would do this.

Russell Lawrence Moore told me of a great fondness he has for hunting deer. He said —
California Condor.  
Eben McMillan  
25 April 1964

That is the only hunting he does much of, but that he
likes to go after those buck deer. He told me he always
enters a shotgun and a rifle in the car, or gun rack,
with him, and that he loves to shoot Jackrabbits for
practice for deer season.

Now this is my judgement of Mr. Moore's story. I believe
he saw several condors and could have seen fifteen or
more of these birds for the State of California 20
miles east of Famous, during squirrel poisoning times.
Condors could be seen there in good numbers, so
we will say that Moore saw fifteen condors and
thirty buzzards and counted them all, or more.
Likely saw fifteen condors and recounted them
all three times. This can be done easily as a
flock of condor circle. As to the condor he shot,
I also think this to be true and he may have known
the one who shot the condor and broke its wing.
From what I know of most people who carry
rifles and shotguns in their cars, I would say
that without some education in what not to shoot
they will all shoot at any large bird if they see
it within range. Bob Lewis, of the Navajo Ranch,
once stated to me when we were talking of condor
at a rodeo on La Panza Ranch about fifteen
years ago, "sometime I would like to shoot
one of those condor. I could see just
what they look like" end quote.
stopping to chat with shepherd Baptista Aleman who is still camping east of Bakersfield. Wooly said a few miles east of Mr. Post, he found him thinking he had seen condors but after discussing his experiences in the area, was certain that he had been seeing hawks, for he showed me the egg remains of a hawk's wing that he said was like the big blinder he had seen circling about his camp. I wasn't the only one who had killed the hawks from which the dissection of the remains of the right wing is all that now remains, for he has a .22 caliber rifle in his trailer house.

I drove to Bakersfield and had my bus tank filled after which I drove to Caliente and talked with Mr. Brown, who operates a feed store. He told me that Bill Atkins, a relative newcomer to this area and who runs the postoffice in Caliente, had reported seeing great numbers of condors in the area a few weeks ago. Otherwise he had heard of no other condor observations by residents of the Caliente area.

I went to Caliente post office and found after considerable discussion with Mr. Atkins regarding the condor he was supposed to have seen. There is now little doubt that they were turkey buzzards.

At the McCarthy Ranch, Mr. Brown reported they had seen no condors lately, but told me just as a young fellow in this area forty years ago condors were seen commonly, especially in the Cummings Valley area.

Driving east-east east of Bakersfield on highway 66, saw a flock of buzzards wheeling over the valley bottom near scene. There were 50 plus buzzards in this flock that are probably associated with
The birds that form the buzzard roost here at Keene

Driving on over the Tehachapi and Dale Creek Pass, I turned west along the LA water aqueduct road that proceeds along foothills on east slope of Tehachapi mountains.

I had stopped and asked my supper along the way. Proceeding along the greater distance by the way to see if it was

Caught up to me and proceeded to move on past me on my left. A fairly strong west wind was blowing that seemed to present some problem to these birds. I sped up to 30 miles per hour and at this speed was able to stay even with these birds that remained near the roadway and at times crossed over in front of me. After pacing the swifts along this roadway for about one mile, I lost them as I entered Cottonwood Canyon. I was surprised at the westward course of these swifts, in fact their course along this aqueduct road was more on the southwest course but the birds kept moving almost to my right seeming to tend to fly a bit more westward. These swifts remained close to the ground when flying and were averaging about 30 miles in ground speed.

I stopped at the Antelope Aqueduct Station of L.A. water. It was that had been up on two separate instances, while being left parked at the roadside at end of Rosamond Bazaar... here he had been leaving this car while catching the high school bus on in to Rosamond. Mr. Miller was home and was most willing to discuss the car shooting incident. He told me...
California Condor

Evan McMillan

28 April 1964

At having to replace four of the heavy padlocks that lock the
heavy manhole covers that are scattered along the
aqueduct, just this last weekend. We showed the these four
padlocks that had been hit with rifle bullets in places
where they would break open. Mr. Miller said he has a
handful of damaged locks he has replaced during the
last several years. He said that the L.A. Water and
Power Department do not encourage arrest of those
found damaging these locks. They claim it is cheaper
to replace the locks.

Miller gets no help from the authorities in trying to
discourage the shooting in the area that is closed to
the discharge of firearms. He maintains
this unrestricted shooting goes on each weekend and
that during school vacation the tempo increases.

Mr. Miller wants me to contact the aqueduct patrolmen
southwest of him where it would be shown how these
shooting had finally destroyed, with rifle bullets, the old
thick concrete enclosures that have been
eased by the water and power department to protect
expensive pizzometers that meter the altitude of
the water in the aqueduct. Not only have these
cement fortifications been broken down by rifle power,
but many of the expensive pizzometers also shot
to bits. Mr. Miller also stated that L.A. Water and
Power Department are now planning on fencing
highway approaches near 101 highway H-10.
At a cost of some $180,000, with human fight
fences, as a means of setting away from this
same sort of problem there. Mover is 100% certain
that all living creatures that remain in the
area, that are large enough from target, are
shot on sight by this mode of shooters, most of
whom, he thinks, come from the Los Angeles area.
He said his children used to raise pet ravens
that they would bring up from infancy after
having found them in nests. He too knows the ad
adveoduct station. This is no longer done you as soon
as the young birds can walk to fly themselves
away from the yard and are shot.

Mr. Miller also has plans in the matter of coyote
control. At present, he said, there are 150 scattered
through his area, stating that traps and poison
bait stations are set for the coyote control.

He thinks the coyote is nearly non-
existent in the desert portions of Kern
County due to this incessant campaign.
He said that the farmers in Antelope Valley
along the edge of the desert provide on date
each year to build this while the same five
this program to eradicate their predators in
force.

I camped for the night in Contemwood creek,
about two miles above the Agriduct station. A
west

strong wind blew throughout the night and near midnight a few drops of rain fell on my face.
California Condor: Obermillerian 29 April 1964

I was up at sunrise. The west wind continued to blow quite strongly. A Scott's Oriole sang from a Joshua Tree nearby. The likeness of this bird to that of the meadowlark, belies the kinship of these birds. House Finches also sang about.

Mr. Hurtt's sheep herder, was contacted at his camp in Cottonwood Canyon. Mr. Hurtt, who speaks some English, had seen no Condors late, nor had believed of any sheep having found.

I drove into foothills where I found the body of a blue sheep, had only died a day or so before. Some were in the room of poison bust and trap stations being out, but I could see no evidence that this sheep had been poisoned. Even though an automobile truck had passed around it, was not sure that it having stopped long enough for it.

Another sheep carcass has found farther west along foothills in Little Oak Canyon that had been here for several days without ever having been eaten on. This carcass was near a roadway and also showed signs of having been closely approached by an automobile. Still another sheep carcass has found later, in Cottonwood Canyon, about one mile below Stockton's Camp. Nothing had fed on this carcass. From the veil of secrecy that...
California Condor  Eudocimuss  21 March 1911

New prevails within the Predator Control Program of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It is going to be difficult to get satisfactory information from these people relative to their ever-injected poison. A carcass of dead sheep with strong portions of compound 1080, in order to poison coyotes that would soon to cut on carcass. One of the shepherds today told me that one of his two sheepdogs had disappeared.

The weather today, three launas and Red-Tailed Hawks were in view, very birds. The low land below a tempest all day throughout the eastern foothills of the foothills mountain. Cloud or fog hung over the mountain tops until it was quite gray.
I camped in a canyon east of Little Oak Canyon last night. The wind blew a gale all night long and is still blowing, or rather, blowing downhill as though experiencing considerable pressure from downhill winds while the slopes on the upper side have been blown up to the pressure of this wind. This could be a factor in the shortage of large birds on the side of the Tehachapi Hills. For today, a turkey buzzard I saw in Canada Del Secretario Canyon, at 10:30 a.m. was literally blown out of this canyon, down the desert. I looked under bushes but was able to maneuver in this downward blast. They do well in currents as strong as this in the Sespe, but these are uphill winds on which the Condor can sit for any length of time it chooses. There is nothing like the breeze.

I drove over Tehachapi's range in afternoon through the White Oak Ridge. Mtero Aburdaragen, an aged Basque shepherd, who has been in America for many years, and spoke with his flock, among the hills, patio, while we rode. Mtero told me she had seen two Condors of late in the Tehachapi mountains. That two of his sheep had died of hunger. He and his flock. Even though the little tents and the huts on a small, simple hillside to the east of his camp among the quarter villa. Nature does not think plus cough.
California Condor  
Eben McMillan  
30 April 1964

Easter long before when they were many more for the pines, we used to shoot black-throated grey and blue birds from the corn in the morning for breakfast. I was always careful to cleanliness and not allow any dross or filth to be occurring among them. Here also I was reminded of a passage in, "The Flock (in my Arcturus)," when she was told how, following a severe drought on her Ranch in its early history, all sheep had to be forced to fend for themselves in the mountains. The following spring after good winter conditions, had returned, a marvellous sight, the flock originally loosened, were regathered in good condition, they having spent the winter in the mountains feeding for themselves in a most successful way.

I passed on over the mountain and dropped into Frijon Canyon where I found down among a charge of the flock at the foot of the grade, down and lost three sheep two days ago in some predation. Condors, he thought. He had seen no scavengers feeding on these sheep carcasses, while I was talking with down a Golden Eagle circled a hillside not far away. He claimed not to have ever seen a bird like this one before. Therefore it is doubtful if many of the Busques over yet to be very proficient as Naturalists. Generally speaking, they are a rather dim-witted lot.
Grass was lush and tall as a drove on down Tegan Canyon past the Indian habitations. Coming westward from the top of Domingo Mountain, following downward in Tegan Canyon along a long, open ridge, a Telegraph cable is being buried. The process of which is cutting a new scar across the land. This cable runs out of Tegan Canyon north of Old Headquarter's and heads west in the general direction of Manicipa. Much trenching, ditching, filling and bulldozing equipment is on the ground working now, and where their day will be brief, their scars are many. Once they are gone.

I arrived home to find that Van had been seeing Condors on Cholame Bluffs, but last two

under

seeing Condors on Cholame Bluffs, but last two
The sky was partly overcast with high fluffy clouds and a gentle breeze was blowing from the Northward as a drove down Palo Prieta Canyon at 10:20 A.M., heading towards the cholame flats. The temperature was mild. A Golden Eagle was perched atop a small fence post, on hilltop, above Dick Escarria home. Five Raven were feeding on the ground near roadway at mouth of Red Rock Canyon on east side of Cholame Flats and four Turkey Buzzards were feeding on the carcass of a ground squirrel, on hillside Northside of mouth of Red Rock Canyon at 10:55 A.M.. At 11:00 A.M., a Golden Eagle was observed through the glasses circling high, to the north, over mouth of Rock Corral Canyon. These observations were made from inside pickup which was pointing up Red Rock Canyon on Northeast.

At 11:05 A.M., I stepped out of pickup and immediately saw four adult Condor circling directly overhead about one quarter mile above me. These four Condor had no doubt come from the west and had just arrived for as they circled upward, the wind that now came from the west, soon carried them eastward and higher. At 11:08 three four Condor, very high now, proceeded westward where they dropped lower near the foot of steep grade. The last sight of these birds I had was of one that was circling about in the canyon that is just mouth of steep grade on Cholame ranch property. This Condor was easy to follow when above the horizon at this distance which, on an air line, is a little more than three miles.
At 11:30 A.M. I dragged the carcass of a calf that lay on the
feeding grounds near roadway, at mouth of Betrock canyon,
up on the point to the northeast. The buzzards that were still feeding on the spirited carcass now left
case I dragged this calf carcass near the place where they
were feeding. The wind from the west was now becoming stronger.
and the cloud covering more intense. I then drove to mouth
of Rock Corral canyon from where I scanned the skies for
several minutes. At 11:40 an immature red-tailed hawk came up
out of the mass below and after gaining altitude moved out to
the northwest. Four buzzards were observed in the sky over
separate locations at 11:57 A.M. At 12:1.7 A.M., a golden
eagle was seen circling high out to the north. After this
bird gained considerable elevation it drifted out eastward
silently and out of sight.

At 1:00 P.M. I was at the 7000 foot dell grade. He
was watching condors that were feeding on the carcass of a
small calf he had dragged there last evening, on a ridge, above the farm where cattle are fed south of the
roadway. During the afternoon up to eight condor came
and went to this carcass, only one of which was an
immature bird. This one young condor was a spoping-the-
wing bird, this showing up more pronounced than in
any specimen I have ever seen before. It was
evident of an adult one of imperfect plumage but due
to the fact that I was quite busy most of
the time taking pictures I had little time to
California Condor

Eben McMillan

1 May 1964

detail these defects. However, the following were noted:

1 adult condor accessory primary or left wing missing

1 adult condor gap in right wing close to body.

Then of course the juvenile spot-in-wing died.

The following diagram is to give some idea as to the location and shape of these spots.

Immature spot-in-wing Condor.

This juvenile condor could not have been much over one year old, if any. It showed poor capabilities in flight and at times when hit by side currents while circling, it would be visibly disturbed. Also, the adult condor seemed to remain with it continually and once when this adult condor had flown and alighted atop a nearby oak tree another adult condor came in and ran the immature bird away from the calf carcass. While this act was in progress the adult bird flew down from the tree and attacked the adult that had ran the juvenile bird away from the carcass.

First adult condor and juvenile then dragged calf carcass over hill out of sight. Second adult remained in sight, on horse for some time.

Then, the two drove up and put out the carcass of another lamb with the hand from yesterday. This adult
California Condor  Eben McMillan  1 May 1969

One quarter mile north of the foot of Kaiser grade, within two
hours a condor had dropped in to feed on this carcass. Other
condors soon joined this bird. At 5:00 p.m. six condors
were feeding on this carcass. These birds allowed us to drive
in Earl's pickup within 200 yards of them before they
commenced showing concern. When we stopped all
the birds ran up the slope to the west and flew from
the hilltop behind this slope. The young bird
and one adult after circling for a time with
the flock left and moved slowly westward as if heading
for the roosting location in Maule Canyon. I watched
six condors circle and drift eastward until at a very great
height over the Cholama Rock area, they turned northward
and drifted towards Castle Mountain.

At 5:22 p.m. one adult condor returned and fed on the
carcass at the north site of mouth of Kaiser grade. This
bird appeared more suspicious by itself and after feeding for
a few minutes it flew out towards Cholama Ranch headquarters
and not being followed too closely as it went a little
relocate

But it again once it got away from where I
saw. Perhaps it may have landed in one of the nearby oaks
for the night or perhaps it could have passed on around
ridge northward and went to roost behind Gene Blumko's
house.

I left the area at this point.

Had we rifles with us today and had been a mind to shoot big
birds we could probably have answered for four of these 8 birds.
California Condor  Eben McMillan  2 May 1964

This morning was overcast and threatening rain. By
11:00 A.M. the threat of rain had passed somewhat, but it was still
cloudy with patches of blue showing. At 10:30 A.M. Mr.
Gregory McMillan came over from biging Adam Grant
ship his cattle. He told me he seeing Turkey Buzzards
feeding on a dead sheep on hillside behind Adam Grant's
home, after which I advised him to return to this
location and see if he could load the sheep carcass
into the pickup so that we could use it as Condor bait
on the chohama flats. This he promptly did, but soon
returned with the information that the sheep carcass
was pretty messy having been opened up by the buzzards
and ravens.

Condor  At 11:30 A.M. Glady's spotted a adult condor feeding
about one-quarter mile south of our house. I glanced out
my living room window to see it, squawk in the air
and reined her observation. This Condor moved on
south. At 11:35 Gregory McMillan left, via back way,
to area where sheep carcass was on Adam Grant property,
where he found six Condors feeding in company with about
two dozen Ravens and 70 Buzzards. The Condor, though
showing some fear when first approached by, returned to
the carcass to feed and allowed him to take shots
at them with the telescopic lens. Gregory left the Condor,
Buzzards, and Ravens all fighting and feeding and
returned to the house at 12:15 P.M. Whereupon he was
joined by his mother on a return trip to 

California Condor  
Eben McIntosh  
2 May 1966

take movies of the condors. As they approached the
area of the sheep carcass, the condors, that were now
sitting about on the ground, resting, took off on the wing
and sailed out to the southeast along the ridge line
that divides the Bitterwater drainage from the San Juan River
drainage.

Later this evening Jan reported last seeing six condors
that had circled as a group of eight over an area about one-
and one-half miles southeast of Kerr Grade, fly out of sight
to the southeast while the two of the eight returned. We last
saw the six condors go out of sight at 11:20 A.M. According
to the state of California, Department of Natural Resources, Division
of Forestry map of San Luis Obispo County, the air line distance
between the foot of Kerr Grade and my house is eleven and
one-half miles. Now suppose the six condors, last seen by Jan,
were one and one-half southeast of the foot of Kerr Grade
when she last saw them. This would make the distance they
would need to cover, to reach my home, as ten miles. There
seems good reason to assume that the one-condor Gladys
Inchillan saw over our home at 11:30 A.M., was one of
the group of six condors that Jan last saw at 11:20 A.M.

This then seems to be substantial evidence that the
six condors covered the ten miles in ten minutes,
or an average speed of one mile per minute. This
 corresponds to the speed we established a condor
traveled over an estimated distance over the top of Frazier Mountain last year.
California Condor  Eben B. McMillan  8 May 1964

Clear - warm, with gentle winds.

I drove to Cholame Flats at 10:00 a.m. Cowboys were working a herd of cattle they held in a fence corner near headquarters. Four Turkey Buzzards fed on a cow carcass that lay near old Spring in Maule flat. Three Buzzards fed on the carcass of a calf that lay about 300 yards west of main road about one-half mile north of Kerr grade road. One of these Buzzards was in a very unkept manner, wings serrated and tail ragged, and appeared to be paralyzed in its legs. This bird moved about with the aid of its wings and when on the ground lay prone with its head low. It would flap up on the calf carcass but I doubt that it could do much feeding. As far as I could see, it could not get enough movement from its head and neck to pull any meat from the carcass. Soon this buzzard, as well as the other two that fed with it, flew into the air. Once airborne, the paralyzed buzzard seemed to fly satisfactorily.

Seven Buzzards circled behind the Rumbo farm buildings before sailing down to feed on the cow carcass at 3:30 p.m. At 4:30 a.m., two Turkey Buzzards were seen to come sailing down Red Rock Canyon and continued on over Cholame Flats. Otherwise no large birds were observed on Cholame Flats today.
To Cholame flats at 2:00 p.m. Several Buzzards came and went to cow carcasses that lay near old spring on Maule flat. They also worked on the calf carcass that lay 100 feet east of this calf carcass as well as another carcass that lay one-half mile east and nearer the road. There was not much wind. It was even a bit warm at times.

No other large birds were seen today.

plenty of food was becoming available for Condor. There is something funny about these calves that are dying from malnutrition. The Condor and Buzzards do not seem to open the carcasses up other than at the naval and the anus. Could it be that due to the emaciated condition of these carcasses perhaps the skin becomes tough. Or could it be that the yard is not acceptable to the Condor not the Buzzards. It can’t be due to age for the carcasses I have witnessed that were not opened up were of calves that died at birth.

The Cow and Calf that Condor, Turkey Vultures, and Ravens have been feeding on regularly on the Maule Flat, by the old dry spring box, on Cholame Ranch, died of Causes other than malnutrition. Scavengers worked on these carcasses quite thoroughly. I am beginning to think that Cattle that have Starved to death are not good food items for Condor.
California Condor
Eben McMillan
10 May 1969

I drove down Palo Prieta Canyon heading for Cholame Flats at 7:45 a.m. I wanted to make sure that condors were not coming in early and leaving before noon. Lower Palo Prieta Eagle was on nest, feeding young I suppose, and flew out to circle over Bruce Canyon, at the moment I drove by. Two Buzzards were on ground by cow carcass that lay near spring on muley flat. This number increased to seven by 9:15 a.m. I had bumped the offal of a sheep we had butchered last night on ridge one-quarter mile north of feet of lower grade.

I saw a Weasel that stood on its hind legs and looked at me from the mouth of a gopher hole. This is one of the springs where weasels in this area have an explosion in population or at least one can see weasels quite common now and perhaps several years will pass before more of these little mammals will be seen again.

As I walked away from the pickup, towards the carcass of calf that lay nearest the roadway, I saw what appeared to be the same Turkey Buzzard that was paralyzed in its legs on 8 May, on the carcass of this same calf. Today this Buzzard seemed much improved and could stand and wheel in flight, did not dangle its legs as it did on 8 May.

I think a pair of Lewis Woodpecker are nesting in one of the old dead trees near still stand inside the nesting enclosure where the spring of water used to be on muley flat. At least one Lewis Woodpecker flew from a hole in this tree when another came and called.

Very little wind blowing on Cholame Flats at 10:00 a.m. and
condor

the sun was rather warm. Not a cloud was in the sky.

At 10:10 a.m. I saw two Condor circling low and —
California Condor  

John Muir

90 May 1916

Laborously, quite low, over the mouth of the draw near where I had left the sheep fall all this morning, I drove there and stepped on Rambo Road, out in front of this draw. As I

stopped here I saw both condors circling close to the foothills to the west. While getting my binoculars out and moving outside the pickup, where I could take a rest on the engine hood, I lost sight of both condors. After watching the hillside for ten minutes when I had last seen them, I saw one adult condor walk from behind a tree and stand on the ridge that runs up a bit north of where the S.G.F.T. Gas line goes. This bird stood for several minutes before it flew out to the north, skimming the oak tops as it went. As it proceeded northward the young spot-in-wing bird came up from the ground through some oaks on the north-facing ridge and followed the adult. Both continued northward, seeming to be troubled considerably in getting elevation, and circled for several minutes over the mouth of the canyon south of Rambo's barn.

After circling this canyon mouth for about two minutes with little success in gaining altitude, and being dive-bombed by a Red-tailed Hawk, both birds moved back southward over the route they had just come, and the adult, at least, that I happened to be watching, landed in the top of an oak, uphill about one-hundred feet from where it had been on the ground some five minutes before, on this ridge not near the S.G.F.T. pipeline. I did not see what became of the spot-in-wing bird.

At 10:45 A.M. the adult condor left the tree on the ridge and flew south over the draw where Minzaamiata grows and...
after circling here briefly dropped into this canyon out of sight.

At 11:00 A.M. an adult Condor came from the North, in flex glide, so I feel sure it came from a distance, and after circling twice dropped down and out of sight in the Canyon near which the other adult Condor had disappeared into only ten minutes before.

Three Condors came out of this same Canyon at 11:13 A.M. Two adults and a Spot-in-Wing bird. One of the two adults had 4th Primary missing from right wing and a gap in left wing also about where 6th Primary should be. The other adult had perfect plumage.

These three Condors circled the area about foot of Kerr Grade for five minutes gaining considerable altitude before flying out towards the Southeast. After going southeast a distance of about one-half mile, the Spot-in-Wing bird and the adult, with Primaries missing, circled and returned while the other adult continued on southeast. Spot-in-Wing and missing Primary adult returned and circled high for a few minutes then sailed out northward where they circled several minutes, about Kameko Ranch before returning again to area about mouth of Kerr Grade, where they circled briefly before dropping in and alighting among six Turkey Buzzards that were feeding on the sheer cliff that had left on the little ridge this morning, about one-quarter mile north of the bottom of Kerr Grade.

At first, both Condor acted suspicious of the sharp patrols—
California Condor

Shaw Millian

10 May 1964

and approached them carefully, but when reaching out to pick
at them, with its beak, the adult condor stood back as far as it could
and still reach the guts. When the guts would move, on being pulled
by the adult, the bird would jump or otherwise flip its wings as if
in preparation to jump back quickly. The immature bird stood by and
watched the adult. At times when both Condors would move
away from the guts, a few feet, one of the buzzards would dash
in and nibble at the pile. On occasions, the young condor would
run after the buzzard in a lumbering, gangly fashion, and chase
them away.

Soon the Condors became confident. The adult would stand
on the guts and tear pieces off, sometimes eating the piece
on the spot or sometimes dropping it on the ground from whence
the young condor would retrieve it, and eat same. At no
time did I see the adult condor attack the young one,
although the young Condor showed great respect towards the adult and
appeared to suspect the adult of attacking it. On occasion both
young and adult Condors would stand and lower their heads
near the ground, moving their heads about close to one
another. I could not see that anything was accomplished
by this holding heads together other than as might be a show
of affection between parent and offspring. The young bird did
show subservience to the adult bird.

After these two Condor had cleaned the guts up, quite
well, they both hiked uphill thirty feet and stood briefly
in the shade of an Oak. The Buzzards moved back to the
remains of the Bighorn and picked at what remained. Several
California Condor  Eben H. McMullin  10 May 1964

The magpie that had fed on the offal, while the condor were also feeding, seemed to draw little concern from the condor. I suppose the size of the magpie would be the reason why the condor did not attempt to run them away.

After standing in the shade of the oak tree for a few moments the adult condor first jumped out into the air and sailed out Northeastward to be followed in turn by the young condor. Both coasted and pumped out to a point above the center of the valley, where they soon climbed high on thermals that came up from the alkali flats, and in a few moments both were circling high and drifting back Westward. Both condor loated above the area for about ten minutes. At 12:22 P.M. both were still circling high. At 12:30 P.M. these two condor were last seen moving Southeastward along foothills on West side of Cholame Valley and about three miles and about three miles SE of the foot of Llano Grade.

No more condor were seen in the Cholame flats area prior to the time a left the area at 2:45 P.M.
It was clear, calm, and mild as I drove down the Palo Prieta Canyon at 7:45 A.M. The blue oaks in the canyon are leafing out but the trees on the hillsides seem to be very slow in sending out leaves. Undoubtedly, the drought must have some influence on this condition and one wonders if these trees on the hillsides are suffering or are they withholding activities in the interest of their own preservation.

The lower Palo Prieta Canyon Eagle was perched in the top of an oak that stands about 200 feet west of the large tree on the ridge where the nest is situated.

At 8:45 A.M. one turkey vulture was feeding at the Cow Carcass near the dry spring on Mauve flat on a branch and four more vultures were feeding at the Calf Carcass that lies 200 yards to the east of the Cow Carcass. At 9:30 A.M. a coyote was seen galloping up a slope just out of the flat on west side of Cholame flats about two miles south of the foot of heavy grade. At 9:35 an adult Golden Eagle was seen first circling low over oaks on west side of Canyon to the southeast of foot of heavy grade, and at 9:40 this Golden Eagle was on the ground near the Carcass of a dead Calf one quarter mile farther up this Canyon. Two Turkey Vultures sailed about the area southeast of the foot of heavy grade.

At 9:55 A.M. one immature condor was seen on the ground, near the top of a ridge, about one-half mile southeast of Gene Rumbo barn. This bird was sitting still, out in the center of an open patch of grassland.
California Condor       Eben McMillan       31 May 1964

and some 200 feet from the nearest tree, Ian and I watched
this bird for some ten minutes or more during which time it
scarcely moved from its tracks. We left the area at 9:15 A.M.
enroute to Cholame where we were to meet Mr. Ken Millar of
Santa Barbara who, in turn was bringing Mr. and Mrs.
Phelps from New York to see a Condor.

At 10:20 A.M. the immature Condor flew from the open
hillside where it had been sitting and flew southeast along
foothills until it came over the foot of Kern grade where
it stopped and circled with four Turkey Vultures for about
two minutes at which time the young Condor dropped
down suddenly, banking sharply as it came near the ground,
and alighted out of sight over a little raise at the same spot
where Condor had fed on a Calf carcass on May 1, 1964 at the
top of a ridge about 3/8 mile south of the foot of Kern grade. This
took place at 10:34 A.M. and the young Condor was not seen
again until it flew out of a small draw downhill from
where it had flown out of sight earlier and circled above
the low foothills, 1/2 mile S.E. of foot of Kern grade at 11:15 A.M.

This young Condor now circled up high, quite quickly, and
in a minute or two was circling high out to the east of
foot of Kern grade about a mile at 11:18 A.M. At 11:19 A.M.
this young Condor sailed slowly westward and after coming
above the ridge top on west side of Cholame Valley turned
and drifted with this ridge southeastward. While in this
last glide a raven came up with the young Condor and
seemed to disturb it with its presence and on one occasion the...
Young condor was seen to make a dive towards the
raven which the raven thwarted with little effort and continued
to follow the young condor. Upon coming above a draw where
three turkey vultures were circling, it ascended the
young condor dropped down and went out of sight somewhere
in this draw that is one of the far southeastern drainages of
the Canyon that dumps out on cholla flats southeast of
the foot of Kerr Grade about 5% of a mile. The young condor
went out of sight, into this draw, at 11:36 AM.

At 11:43 AM another young condor was seen to circle above the
horizon above the area where one had gone out of sight at 11:36. This
condor circled with several turkey vultures above the ridgeline
here for several minutes appearing at times as though it would
drop down again but after several passes over the area
it went up higher and then headed southeast in a flat glide
at 12:06 PM, and was soon lost from sight. Still going
in this same direction.

At 1:50 PM an adult condor with 5th Primary missing from
right wing and a gap in primaries of left wing came in from
the north on flocked wings and kept high, passing directly
over where I lay on my back, eating my lunch on hillside
by mile south of foot of Kerr Grade. As it came overhead, this bird
slowly considered in speed, and where it did not deviate from
a straight course, it appeared to be gliding over air waves that
would cause it to trim its sails when dropping into troughs and spreading
out for more surface when meeting the uphill side of these waves.
The wing action did not include wrist motion as in the
California Condor  
Eben McMillan  
11 May 1969

Case when these birds are manipulating cross currents. The action was very much like a human being swimming in the surf of the ocean. After loafing above me for about 30 seconds this adult Condor went into the flex glide and moved on down the ridge and when last seen as a dim speck at 2:04 A.M. was moving south somewhere in the neighborhood of Cholame, Calif. I feel sure this was the same Condor that fed with the immature bird on the offcut of the sheep I placed out North one quarter mile of the foot of Keye Grade after noon yesterday. I also feel quite sure that the young bird that was present this morning was the same spot-in-wing-bird as was about yesterday.

The Phelps, McMillan, and I all visited with Gene Rambo at his home in the afternoon. Gene said that he had brought two of the Calf Carcasses, that had died from malnutrition on Cholame flats, home to his dogs for food. The dogs would not eat these Calf Carcasses.

This morning I chopped open the rib cage of a calf that had been dead about two days. It smelled similar to the gas that comes from a mud-hole when a horse walks through the mud. No Turkey Vultures-Raven, Eagles or Condor came to feed on this carcass today even though I had seen a Golden Eagle sitting near it before I opened it up with hatchet.
California condor  Eden McMillan  13 May 1964

It was clear and warm with a gentle west wind blowing as I left home heading down the Bitterwater Valley. Cattle are still on the land in the Bitterwater even though the area looks incapable of supporting them. The area from the mouth of Bitterwater Valley to the Lost Hills Oil fields is showing signs of blowing badly.

Stopping at minter field I talked with Ben Easley who is in charge of squirrel poisoning in Kern County. He said that crews were at work now on the Hudson Ranch above Maricopa and that a crew had been working in the Mckethan area. Carl Tisselmann and Ernest Still have been poisoning off and on, having to stop to ship cattle at times. Ben Easley said that no poisoning was now going on where heavy concentrations of squirrels occur. He said one of his men, George Moore, was running a small crew on the Mendubin property, lease, east of Zamosa, but that they were not putting out much poison.

Mr. Easley told me that Freeland Farnsworth was to bring in five-thousand pounds of grain for Mr. Easley to mix with poison that Farnsworth was to put out on his property for rats. Easley also mentioned that the Woody Ranch, that had ordered 500 pounds of rat poison three weeks ago, had not put it out yet.

I questioned Mr. Easley if the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service got their 1080 poison from his office. He said no that sometimes it is the other way. That his office gets 1080 from the U.S. Fish Service in Boise, Idaho.
On Government lands, like the forest service lands, when a crew of Easley's men are poisoning for some operator who has a grazing lease, his men will do the poisoning here. The U.S. fish and wildlife service will then furnish him with the poison, for in a case of this kind, Mr. Easley said, that were his office to go through the proper channels of getting permission from the forest service or any other government branch, it would take two or three years, so the U.S. fish service just issue him the poison and his men do the job of applying. Mr. Easley also told me that sometimes poison that they have on hand, for any length of time, becomes dehydrated. When this happens, his office sends this poison back to fish and wildlife in Boise, Idaho, where the poison is concentrated again and returned to his office in a usable form.

Mr. Easley told me that the San Emigdio Ranch was planning on poisoning squirrels soon and that he did not know their exact plans. I drove to the San Emigdio Ranch in order to set their plans on squirrel poisoning, for I think this could concentrate the condor in that area. I found Walter Slaytor in a cast with a broken leg that he had suffered on 17 April 1964. Mr. Slaytor told me of their plans to poison the San Emigdio in about ten days time with strychnine poisoned grain. This way he could do the applying with his own men at times when the cowboys had little else to do. Slaytor said that
Squirrels were very plentiful in the canyons of the foothills.

Walter Sluyter, not one of his men had seen a condor. He said there were lots of eagles in the hills. He voiced a concern for protecting eagles and condor and considered warning all hunters who come onto the San Emigdio lands to hunt in the fall a good idea.

I drove to Tejon Headquarters at Lebec and picked up keys to go up Tejon Canyon, then drove to Tejon Ranch and up Tejon Canyon. I ran onto Ray Like and Jim Wilkensen who told me they had seen no condor lately. Jim Wilkensen is to be looking after Tejon cattle that are in the Lebec area this summer. He said he would be on the watch for condor in that area and keep data on any he sees. Both Wilkensen and Like voiced strong opposition to the shooting of coyotes on Tejon Ranch and especially to the State Trapper coming in and destroying coyotes that they feel are doing a service to the Tejon Ranch co. in keeping the Javelina, Rabbits down as well as the ground squirrels.

Rain had fallen since I was last in Tejon Canyon and the sheep had all been moved to the mountain top. I drove to the top and came upon sheep but they were put away from their camps and were hard to get to, so I camped for the night near the head of Cottonwood Canyon. At dusk Coyotes -
California Condor 
Eben McMillan 
13 May 1964

Called from the Chin-ook thickets across Cottonwood Canyon. Later in the night I also heard coyotes howling.

The wind did not blow strongly during the night. Barn owls were heard screeching during the night and screech owls were also heard. The temperature was cool but not cold.
California Condor  Eben McMillan  14 May 1964

Elean. Calm and cool at sunrise - visited with Mateo Amundaren who had been moved up into upper reaches of Cottonwood Canyon on east side of Tejon from his former formal camp on flats below timber line. He said he had lost no sheep since moving up high even though coyotes could be heard calling at night. He told me that before he left the lower country he had seen what he took to be six condor feeding on the carcass of a dead sheep about seven days ago. This would have been May 7, 1964. Mateo also stated that he beds his sheep at night on a ridge to the northeast of his camp about one-half mile and their morning seems to bother them. Mateo now lives in a tent and cooks his meals in a Dutch Oven over a wood fire.

The grass is still lush and green at the higher elevations on Tejon Ranch and very ample in supply. Five bunches of sheep are in this high country now. I saw two sheep carcasses today that had been dead for two and four days and still no scavengers had fed on them. One of the shepherds, Mateo Amundaren, told me of seeing 35 or 40 condor circling above the carcass of a lamb that died near his camp in White Oak Valley about ten days ago. The condor were at this carcass eight days ago. I went to where he told me this carcass was and found it intact even though it was in an advanced state of putrefaction. There was no evidence that this lamb carcass had been fed on by scavengers.

With this lamb carcass and the two sheep carcasses mentioned above this would be a total of three sheep carcasses that have died within the last ten days none of which had been touched.
California Condor

Examined

By scavengers or any sort. The last trip I made here to Tejon Ranch on 24 and 25 April 1964, I saw three sheep carcasses home of which were more than a week old and on that same trip the shepherd, Juan Arrieta, told me of having two lambs and a ewe killed near his camp none of which he told me today had been eaten on by scavengers. This makes a total of ten sheep carcasses. I have either seen or heard good account of within the last fifteen years, as of which, 80 percent or more have been eaten on by scavengers of any sort. Now this is rather difficult to deduce why there are no scavengers working in this area on both east and west slopes of Tejon Ranch. In the areas of Tejon and Cottonwood Canyon is rather amazing. I saw only one Turkey Vulture on the Tejon Ranch yesterday and today, and no Raven-Eagles or Condor.

The young shepherd, Juan Arrieta, in Tejon Canyon said he was quite sure he saw two Condors circling over Tejon Canyon near his camp, that is a boat one and one-half mile up stream from the Indian School, but he did not see these condors come to feed on either of the sheep carcasses that were present then and rather fresh. This was two days ago or Tuesday that he saw the condors.

Home from Tejon by 7:30 P.M.
Sky was clear except for a few patches of high-thin cirrus clouds; it was moderately warm and a gentle west wind was blowing at 11:13 A.M. today as I looked from the front window of my house and saw two rather large bird shadows passing north of my house in a northerly direction. Going to the large glass window I saw two adult condors, moderately high, incandescing northward in an uneven, rolling flight as if hunting for food. The two condors continued in northward for about three-quarters of a mile distance where they commenced to circle in vain altitude as we were soon quite high. From this height these two condors went into a flatter glide after dipping the wings, and at 11:17 were lost from sight heading north by northwest or in a bee-line for the Cholame flats.

Today, while watching these two condors at a distance, there seems to be two characteristics that one can use to positively identify these birds when they are a good distance away. These two factors would be predicated on condor being observed to be either circling or coming, or going directly to or from the observer. When condor are circling the updraft motion of these birds is much more accentuated than is the case in other large birds.Golden Eagle would more closely resemble a condor in flight than any other Western American
land bird and the wrist motion of a Golden Eagle is mostly restricted to the outer one-quarter of the wing. See following diagram.

Where the wrist motion of a Condor will include at times the outer half of the wing—See following diagram.

The second feature one can use in identifying Condor from other large birds in flight, at a distance must be used when the bird is either approaching or going from the observer. It is then that the brush appearance of the outer primaries of the wings give the Condor an unmistakable appearance. See diagrams following.

Brush appearance of condor wings at distance.

Brush appearance of brush appearance of Golden Eagle when seen at a distance.

The tail of the above Golden Eagle is too low and too wide, nevertheless it shows the important feature of lack of brush appearance of outer tips of wings at a distance.

At 11:30 A.M. I drove to Cholame Flats, passing up the main valley road way to Cuttleward where the roadway is fenced on each side near the Cholame Rancho Headquarters. No Condor nor Tularey bullets were seen at this time. Six more Cows had died near the Kern Grade bottom since I was here last on May 17th. More dead Calves were also in evidence. I drove and parked at
Top of hill about one quarter mile south by southeast of foot of kern grade. At 1:15 P.M. an adult condor came from the southeast, quite high, sailing easily, and moved on. Past the spot where I was sitting, to a place about over Cholame Rancho Headquarters where it circled for some time and gaining more elevation before passing out to the eastward. As I watched this condor heading eastward, high, from direction of Cholame Rancho Headquarters, I momentarily dropped my glasses in order to make my sitting position more comfortable and when glassing the skies again could not relocate this high flying bird but instead picked up what I am sure was another condor that had just cleared the hills across the valley from me and near where the P.G. and E. pipe line comes from the east foothills into the valley. This condor could not be identified as to age due to the distance it was from me. This second condor raised up very fast, circling, and when at a rather high elevation, this bird dipped its wings and went into a flex glide, seeming to gain elevation as it passed on and sight, above Sam Wallace Rocks, with no apparent intent of changing its course. The day was very clear, with little haze and high thin cirrus clouds made conditions near perfect for seeing a great distance. My binoculars are 9 x 35 O & L. I feel sure I can follow a condor in flight, under ideal conditions such as was the case today, for twelve miles. This condor passed from my field of vision when it was still well above-

California Condor
Eben McGee
15 May 1959
california condor
Eben Mcmilian
15 may 1964

the eastern horizon and still gliding on eastward.
Looking at my map I see that from where I was sitting to the
Top of the ridge above the Sam Wallace rocks would be about
seven miles. Now assuming that a could follow
eight miles, which seems reasonable, the second condor on
Cholame flats that passed from sight over the eastern
Sam Wallace rocks must have been bound for a long flight that
might have taken it across the Sun Joaquin Valley to the
area near Tule Indian Reservation, where condors have nested in the
past. My map shows the distance necessary to travel on an air line
from the foot of Kerr grade to Tule River Indian Reservation on the
east side of the Sun Joaquin Valley to be between eighty and
ninety miles. This distance, I feel sure, could be covered by a
gliding condor in less than one and one-half hours.

It is strange that the two sheep that died on the Adam Grant
Property last week and the week before were both visited by
condor and turkey vultures to the point of being completely
consumed, except for the hide and bones, while sheep on
Tejon Ranch were not touched, nor cattle on the Cholame
flats, the last few days. I am thinking that within the
range of condor, such a plethora of food exists that these
birds do become very particular as to what they eat. The location,
the quality, and the availability of this food could have an influence
on whether condor would use it or not; and the degree of hunger
suffered by the condor might have a bearing also. I doubt that
there would be any rhyme or reason to when a condor would feed,
or where it would feed. It does appear that these birds welcome
exercise on the wing and might fly a good distance just to be flying and not in quest of food. Just why this last condor today would leave the Cholame Flats that are literally covered with condor food and sail our eastward is hard to explain.
It was cold and foggy with a brisk west wind blowing at sunrise. The fog cleared about 7:00 a.m., but the west wind continued. I drove to Cholame Flats at 8:00 a.m. With the carcasses of three Jack-rabbits that I shot early this morning, I scattered the bodies of the three rabbits near the cow that had died yesterday morning at the mouth of the first canyon coming from the western slope of Cholame Valley foothills about one quarter mile south of Wooden Gate entering Gene Rumbo Property from the east. I also opened the paunch of this cow carcass with my hatchet as well as cutting several deep gashes in the rear of each hind quarter.

I then drove to the canyon north of foot of Deer Grade and glassed the area with my binoculars. Three Turkey vultures came circling from Maple Flats on Cholame and circling as they went passed out to the south with no apparent interest in any of the many cattle carcasses that lay along the foothills and out on Cholame Flats, many of which had only died within the last day or so and would appear to interest a hungry Turkey vulture.

I drove to east side of Cholame Valley via the road that passes north of the Altamaha Camp and proceeded southeastward along foothills to the mouth of a small canyon between Rock Corral and Red Rock Canyons where I noticed a young heifer calf.
California Condor

May 16, 1964

Eben McMillan

About four months old, yesterday, in what I thought was the last hours of life, but found it today in the same spot, in about the same shape, being unable to get up, but still being capable of being startled when one would jump towards it and wave his hands. When this was done the calf would react with a start, as if it were going to get up quickly, but that is all that would happen. It could not get its body off the ground. On one occasion this calf uttered a plaintive bawl.

Returning to west side of Cholame Valley, retracing my route, I saw two pairs of Burrowing Owls along the east side foothills. Crossing the culvert under which pumped water now flows to water the cattle just west of the Kerr Grade road turnoff from the main Cholame Flats Road, I noticed one cow that had just expired last night. The two cows that I had photographed yesterday were still alive and in about the same stage of living as they were yesterday. Someone had put new hay in front of these cows but other cattle were eating it up instead of the distressed animals.

Driving southward along foothills, from foot of Kerr Grade, I left my pickup in the headwaters of the first large canyon south of Kerr Grade and hiked along the ridge top following the dividing fence between the White property and Cholame Ranchlands in search of a fresh carcass on which Condor could be feeding. Having seen Condor in this area a few days ago, no fresh bodies
California Condor  
Eben B. MacMillan  
16 May 1964

At Cattle were found due, I think, to the fact that any cattle that are now strong enough to make this journey from water are not about to die soon. I met up with several cows and some calves along the top of this ridge and all appeared frightened at my presence and displayed ample strength in running in the opposite direction of me. Could it be that the grade of hay that is being fed to the cattle on the flats is upsetting their systems and weakening them? At least the cattle a found along the top of this ridge seemed quite strong and healthy yet.

I also, while hiking along the top of the west slope of Cholame Flats, south of Keye Grade, noticed the carcasses of several cows and calves that apparently had died in January or February of this year. Some showed signs of having been eaten on by scavengers. From this evidence, it would appear to me, that the Cholame Rancho alone, could have supported the present Condor population with ample food from the first day of January, of this year up to the present date. This on one Ranch.

At 11:00 A.M., while hiking down ridge of southeast drainage of first canyon south of Keye Grade, I saw a spot-in-the-sky Condor sailing towards me, from the northeast, at a moderate height. This bird came on and circled above the axles to the east of me for two minutes, when it was joined by an adult Condor that also came in from the northeast, but much higher than the former bird had been. The adult bird, what appeared to be the fifth primary missing from the right wing and a pin in the
California Condor

Edmond Millan

16 May 1964

Sixth or Seventh Primary of the left wing that appeared to be filling in. The spot-in-the-wing Condor had a secondary feather missing from the right wing about two-thirds of the way out from the body. Both these Condor circled to the east and then south of where I was, gaining considerable altitude before flying out to the south, and out of my sight, at 11:20 A.M., heading in a south by southeasterly direction.

I feel quite certain that these two Condor were the same adult and immature birds as I saw on May 10-1964 feeding on the sheep offal that I had placed out north of the foot of Kern Grade. The only changes that seemed to have occurred since that time, in these birds was a loss of a secondary feather in the right wing of the immature bird and a gradual filling in of the gap in sixth or seventh primary feathers of the left wing of the adult bird.

Arriving back at my pickup at 11:32 A.M., I glanced up to see both spot-in-wing and adult Condor with 5th primary missing from right wing and gap in left wing in area of 7th to 8th primary feathers coming from southeast moderately high. Both birds circled over the mouth of this canyon where I had parked my pickup. The adult seemed to stay rather high while the spot-in-wing bird would circle much lower in elevation. It seemed also that the immature bird more or less remained about aimlessly while the adult followed wherever it went. The adult usually remaining at a higher elevation as it followed the young and circled.

At 11:37 A.M., these two Condor moved out eastward.
California Condor  
Eden McMillan  
16 May 1964

Slowly and after arriving above the east foothills of Cholame Valley in the vicinity of Cholame Rock they circled briefly then appeared to let down, as if to investigate something on the ground, but before touching within 200 yards of ground they rose up again and circled high for several moments before flying out eastward towards the Maxey Ranch, where they passed from sight at 11:45 a.m., against the dark brush covered hillside behind the Maxey Ranch.

At 12:35 I met a man who was to watch Cholame flats this afternoon. I left the area at 12:35 p.m.
California Condor  

Elena McMillan  

17 May 1969

During the morning hours I hiked with a group of people to the Top of Hubbard Hill that is situated east of San Juan River and north of Anderson Canyon and is one of the peaks in the Rough and Rocky Complex than separates the Northwest end of the Carissa plains from the San Juan River in eastern San Luis Obispo County. During the five hours that we were in the area there were few times when one could not see Turkey Vultures in the air, and on most occasions there would be four or five of these birds in the air at one time. What impressed me was why one sees so few Turkey Vultures on the Cholame flats where so much food is available for scavengers? Another intriguing matter is how do so many Turkey Vultures find ample food in this upper San Juan River area? I suppose The Lupanza Ranch is furnishing dead cattle for these birds now and then.
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california condor  Eben B. Macmillan  18 May 1964

Arrived on chalama flats at 10:05 A.M. A fairly brisk east wind was blowing and the sky was streaked with the contrails of aeroplanes and a thin layer of moderately high cirro-cumulus clouds dimmed the sunlight. At 10:15 A.M. six Turkey Vultures were sailing about the point on the South side of the canyon that empties into chalama flats about one-quarter mile south of Gene Rambo barn. Three of these vultures alighted on a dead snag on this point but none lit on the ground, nor did those that lit on the dead oak snag remain perched long but were soon back on the wing.

Two antlerless deer ran from the grove of oak trees on North side of ridge that runs up Northwest about three eights of a mile north of the foot of Kerr grade. Why deer would be on the overgrazed lands of Chalama Ranch when the Spring Ranch of astened cattle company is only a mile away where forage is plentiful seems strange to me. As I sat watching these two deer running up the ridge seven Turkey Vultures came and circled near where I was located near the foot of this ridge at 10:30 A.M. A pair of Red-Tailed Hawks also wheeled above me a few moments after the Turkey Vultures had moved on, and a rather bedraggled appearing Prairie Falcon also came by and circled above where I stood.

I was walking about on the ridge referred to above when the birds aforementioned circled above me. It seems that a human on foot creates a curiosity in large birds that
California Condor

attracts them where-by they are apt to come and circle above your position. This made than would be the case were one on a horse or in an automobile. Human beings, on foot, in the hills are not a common sight.

At 12:40 P.M., from my position on the Kerr Grade Road about three-eights of a mile up from the bottom, I saw a condor and a Turkey Vulture circling on the ridge above the headwaters of the Canyon North of where the P.G. & E. pipeline goes up westward from the Valley North of the foot of Kerr Grade. After a few circles the condor came my way and was followed by a Turkey Vulture that flew much faster and therefore crossed back and forth behind the Condor in order to keep behind the face of the Condor, which seemed to be the design of this vulture.

As both these birds approached me I could see that the Condor was an immature bird in the spot-in-the-wing stage. This condor did not come within range whereby I could definitely make out if it had a feather missing 3/8 of the way out from the body, of the right wing, as did the spot-in-the-wing bird which I saw in this same general area last Saturday May 6th. As both the vulture and the condor approached within one quarter mile of my position, they swerved Northeast and circled for several minutes over the mouth of the Canyon that is North of said P.G. & E. pipe line. At 12:45 the condor and also the Turkey Vulture that was still keeping company with the above, were both circling over the Gene Sherbons home at a rather high elevation. After
California Condor

Eric McMillan

18 May 1964

On the general area for several minutes both the immature Condor and the Turkey Vulture, that accompanied it, dropped down on the carcass of a dead calf where Jan had watched them feeding yesterday afternoon. Three other Turkey Vultures were already on the carcass of this calf, that lay on the Cholame Rancho Property about one hundred yards east of Gene Rambo's Stock Corrals. This occurred at 12:55 AM.

The immature Condor and the four Turkey Vultures were feeding on this Calf carcass until 1:07 AM. When three of the vultures flew away as if disturbed by something. They were immediately followed by the immature Condor that had to flap along the ground several beats, into the east wind, before becoming airborne. The immature Condor was followed in turn by the last remaining Turkey Vulture that remained with the Condor while both circled up to a considerable height before sailing out eastward above and beyond the Cholame ranch headquarters for about two miles where both commenced circling. After circling the east foothills for several minutes, at 1:17 AM. The young Condor took a direct course westward and lowering slightly as it returned, with rapped, loosely, held wings arrived over the Calf carcass which it had previously left and after circling above this carcass and the four Turkey Vultures that were now feeding on it, let down and landed about ten feet Northwest of the carcass at 1:20 PM.

As many as five Turkey Vultures and the immature Condor continued to feed on this Calf Carcass for the next hour.
Turkey Vultures came and went during this next hour that the immature condor remained feeding at this Calf Carcass. Most of the time the young condor stood at the Carcass and tugged, or pulled, at it in getting the meat from it. Jan said he thought yesterday that this Calf Carcass was at least four or five days old. Today it smelled quite strongly as if it had been dead for several days. At times the Condor would chase Turkey Vultures away some distance from the Carcass on which it fed. When this happened other vultures would run in and be pulling at the Carcass when the Condor returned. Mostly the vultures stayed away five or eight feet while the Condor fed but at times one of the vultures would be permitted to move in and feed on the opposite end of the Carcass from which the Condor fed with little friction between the two.

At 2:20 P.M., three of the five Turkey Vultures that were about the Calf Carcass at this time flew into the air. At 2:21 the Condor left, seeming to get airborne easier this time than was the case before it fed so heavily. The brisk east wind soon carried the young Condor back above the Rumbo home, as it circled and gained altitude. It went from sight into the Canyon behind the Rumbo home at 2:22 P.M.

Once the Condor had passed from view I investigated a commotion that had been going on about ten feet above me in the branches of the low tree under which-
I had been sitting. A pair of Brewer's Blackbirds were fighting off the advances of a small Gopher Snake that was at the end of a small, dead, branch and about two feet from the birds' nest. Evidently the snake, that was about fourteen inches long, had chosen the wrong branch in approaching the nest and now found itself exposed, on the end of this dead branch, from which it was attempting to reach out and bridge the gap between it and the nearest branch that would allow it to pass on over to where the birds' nest was situated. This gap was about ten inches, or about four inches more than the snake could manage. As it would stretch out to bridge this gap, one, or both, blackbirds would dash at it and strike it with their wings, and perhaps peck it with their beaks, the action being faster than my eye could follow. At least the birds' efforts would disturb the snake enough whereby it would coil and strike out at the birds only to be hit again before it could recoil. This lasted for several minutes before the snake retreated; I took several 35mm pictures of the engagement before running out of film. Evidently the snake retreated completely from the scene for when I had reloaded my Camera the female Blackbird had returned to the nest and was incubating the eggs. Probably a very small percentage of small birds nests escape the plunder of snakes. Of all factors I would think snakes contribute the greatest influence in maintaining minimum populations among small birds.
California Condor

Eden McMillan

15 May 1909

The two cows near the water course at the foot of Kelly Grade that could not get to their feet last Saturday morning were joined by a third today. One of the former is now flat on its side and only able to move its eyes and front legs a bit. Even when breathing there is little movement of the ribs and stomach surfaces. Several new calves have died on the feeding grounds since last Saturday and the general condition of all the cattle that are feeding on the hay that is put out for them on the flats is deteriorating progressively.
I went at 12:00 noon. We left immediately in my car for Coyama Valley where we were to meet Carl Buchheister and Alden Miller. En route we stopped at Carl Twisselmann Ranch near McKittrick where we chatted with Carl, who is the president of California Cattlemen's Association for the second term, regarding the policy of the Cattlemen's Association regarding the proposals for opening of new areas to public hunting and the construction of new roadways in order that the public can get into these newly opened areas easily. Carl kept mentioning the support that the Calif. Cattlemen's Association has given the multiple use program of the National forest Service, but he made no direct statement as to their stand on such specific projects as the Sierra Madre Ridge Road where multiple use that is now being provided on this area will be transplanted by maximum use of an area that provides little or any value indefinitely. The Sierra Madre Ridge Road could only serve deer hunters in qualitative amounts. This will supplant the qualitative values enjoyed by those who hike or ride into this area in hunting season with reasonable success. We landed in New Coyama at 2:35 P.M. and were met at the Buckhorn Motel by Carl Buchheister, Alden Miller, Paul Howard- Ed Morse, Jim Daleu and another forest service personnel, all of whom were just disbanding from having returned from an inspection trip of the Sierra Madre Ridge Road.

After paying farewells Mr. Buchheister and Alden Miller
California Condor  Eben McDillan  19 May 1964
accompanying him and went to Bakersfield where Dr. Miller caught a plane for San Francisco. Enroute to Bakersfield from Cuyama we discussed the more important aspects of the Condor study. It was agreed that compilation of material gathered during the study would commence the latter part of June and that we would endeavour to have most of the field work completed by that time. Dr. Miller will take active charge of the compilation of all information we have gathered in our notes. This both Jan and myself were much pleased to hear as his experience in these matters will smooth out what, to us, would be a troublesome feature of the project.

Carl Buchheister and Jan had dinner at my home and moved on to Jans place later in the evening.

A card from Louis Wilson of San Luis Obispo that came in the mail today, stated that on May 17, 1964, late in the afternoon, while climbing Frearson Mountain that is situated four miles west of Cuvassa Plains School, on Cuvassa Plains, he and his wife and Mrs. Lee Wilson of Cuvassa Grande had observed five Condors that circled within one hundred feet of them as they neared the top of Frearson Mountain about 5:00 pm. I will have to get more particulars from Mr. Wilson to make sure these were Condor, but I can't see how he could be mistaken at a distance of 100 feet.
California Condor  
Eben McMillan  
20 May 1964

Carl Buchheister and I arrived at 9:30— we drove to palo pinta canyon where we saw Golden Eagle on nest. It was probably one of the young, if there are two, they are now well fledged. We drove on to cholame flats. The sick and dead cattle that were on the feeding grounds had been taken away, probably by the Tallow works. We remained in the area until 11:30 A.M., in the hopes that condor would come in, but we saw none. Many things were discussed during the morning, especially the matter of the Sierra Madre Road and its effects on condor welfare; also the general problems confronting the National Audubon Society in regards to its policy towards private individuals who wish to emphasize the need for public concern over bureaucratic integrity especially as this would pertain to governmental bureaus and their personnel— also the matter of Audubon chapters or affiliates going beyond their bounds in developing programs that would supersede those of the national organization. All these discussions were, of course, held to matters that would pertain to condor welfare.

At 12:15 P.M. we stopped at the Cold-water Golden Eagles nest in the Pines. Two well fledged young were on the nest. We put Carl Buchheister on the S.P. Daylight at 2:00 P.M. in San Luis Obispo and returned to our homes.
California Condor

Eben McMillan

21 May 1964

Corry has had no warm days. So far, moderate to cool temperatures have prevailed, considerable fog on occasion, west of the San Joaquin Valley at times, with showers on more than one instance.

It was cool again this morning when I drove down the Bitterwater Valley on way to Bakersfield. The cattle have all been removed from the lower Bitterwater Valley and the dust blown area east of Blackwell's Corner continues to grow larger and become more active whenever moderate to high winds blow, from any direction.

Stopping at Agricultural Commissioner's office in Bakersfield I was given a copy of Kern County Agricultural Crop Report for 1963, in which were estimates of the numbers of livestock on the ranges of Kern County on both January 1, 1963 and January 1, 1964. The estimate of cattle on the Ranges of Kern County on January 1, 1963 was 139,000, while the number of sheep on these ranges at this same date was 176,000. The cattle number of livestock on ranges of Kern County, given for January 1, 1964, was 141,800 while the number of sheep on these ranges on this same date was 162,300. Figuring these numbers roughly, but conservatively, by assuming the annual death loss for cattle to be 0.3 percent and the annual death loss for sheep to be 0.5 percent, I come up with a figure of twelve cattle per day dying on an average day throughout the year in Kern County, while twenty-three sheep expired each day, on an average, throughout the year in this same county.

While at the Kern County Agricultural Commissioner's office, in Bakersfield, I was introduced to a Mr. John B.
L.A.
Southern Cal. Recreation
Had dinner at house from Edw.
Super on Empire大厦
9/2003 to 7/2004
California Condor

Eben McMillan

21 May 1969

Steinweden, who is Regional Coordinator, Department of Agricultural, State of California, 107 Broadway, Los Angeles 12, California, Mr. Steinweden brought to my attention a facsimile copy of a letter that had been written, a short time ago, by District Ranger Edwin Morse of the Cuyama Ranger Station, to the agricultural commissioner of Santa Barbara County in which Ranger Morse was advising said commissioner that the use of 1080 on Thallium was not being used on U.S. Forest Service lands and that Ranger Morse thought the squirrel problem acute enough on the forest lands in his charge that he was asking that the program be carried out using strychnine or other forms of poison on the grain. Mr. Morse made it plain in this letter that the order preventing the use of 1080 and Thallium poisons on U.S. Forest Service lands was a departmental order and not one from his office in particular. Mr. Steinweden was wondering what I knew about an article that had appeared in the print, of late, where it was stated that two condor had been found dead in Kern County and the cause of death had been found to be 1080 poison. I told him I had read of this article in a copy of the Fresno Bee, that I had no idea how long ago the article was printed and that the information, to the best of my memory, came from the University of California. Mr. Steinweden seemed somewhat disturbed at the condor incident and asked if I...
California Condor  
Eben McMillan  
21 May 1964

were any relationships to Jan McMillan who lived in San Luis Obispo, County, and who, sometime back, had suffered some loss of trees to the drift of spray from a neighbors operation, whereby aerial spraying was being applied to kill weeds in a grain field. Mr. Steinwedel had been aware of this incident when Jan McMillan had asked, or demanded, that agricultural personnel be sent to his place to assess the damage and witness the problem. Mr. Steinwedel had also heard of Jan McMillan through William Warne who some years ago was Director of the California Department of Agriculture, and later Director of California Department of Fish and Game and when under this title had been at Jan’s place shooting Quail. Mr. Steinwedel also inquired as to what I thought the number of Condor now surviving to be. I instructed him as to our study and that it was hoped we could shed some light on this question when all material and field notes had been compiled and assessed, hopefully, by the end of this year.

I drove to U.S. Forest Service office in Bakersfield and found Opal Grimes at her desk. She informed me that Younger Tolome was in the field today. No information on Condor was forthcoming from this office, but Opal Grimes did tell me that a Bay Burt had been posted at Bute Flat Lookout last Tuesday and this lady had been ordered to keep records of, and send such records to the Bakersfield office. Of any Condor sightings she might have-
during the course of her stay at this Lookout Station.

At the office of the Kern County Land Company in Bakersfield, I was told by Mr. Max Newboles that he would be glad to compile information on the average death loss of cattle on their range throughout the year, but that at present he was short of help and therefore not in a position to help me, but that were I to go to the office of Justinian Care, at B.C.L. Co. at Gossford feed lot and that he felt sure Mr. Care would be most happy to help me out in getting this information.

At the office of Production Credit Association, in Bakersfield, I discussed the percentage of death loss in cattle with Mr. Foster Webb, the assistant manager of this office. Mr. Foster Webb evidently did not want to divulge information as to the death losses in livestock for fear this information might be poor business ethics for he kept assuring me that with good management and modern scientific information that death loss in cattle was now practically nothing; "Oh, maybe one-half of one percent," he said, when questioned regarding foothill abortion, Longspur, Bloat, and Potassium Poisoning, all of which are common on certain years in the foothills of Kern County, he evaded the issue by making it appear that these were specific cases and could not be included in an average, or expected, death loss in cattle.

Joe Neglas, bookkeeper for H & R Sheep Company was not in his office, but was told to return again on another date when Mr. Neglas would be in and that it was quite
Certain that I could get accurate estimates of death loss in sheep from Mr. Meigs. This I will do.

Stopping at Wintert Field Office and Poison Mixing Warehouse of Ben Easley, I found Mr. Easley and an assistant just cleaning up their machinery after having mixed a batch of poison. Easley said the poison was going out fast. That the call for material to poison Rats-Rabbits and mice was the heaviest he had ever witnessed it before. I asked if he knew of any poisoning operations going on where great numbers of ground squirrels were being poisoned. Mr. Easley told me to go to the Carl Twisselman Ranch at McLintock to see lots of squirrels being poisoned, for on that ranch, the man who Mr. Easley assigns from his office to oversee the application of 1080 poison, had reported that on the Carl Twisselman ranch twelve-hundred pounds of 1080 poison had been scattered in one day.

Mr. Easley mentioned that some of his assistants had doubted the use of this much poison in one day, by the crew of men, but Easley said he checked and found the statement of 1200 pounds used in one day to be authentic.

Mr. Ben Easley said that at the rate operators are using poison he is going to be out of grain, with which to mix poison in a few more weeks. 550 to 600 ten of grain is all that remains in his stockpile.

Mr. Easley, upon being questioned by me, said he -
California Condor
Eben McMillan
21 May 1964

must have misstated the amount of grain that Turlock
Farmsworth was going to bring in to have mixed with
Strychnine Poison. That it was 1000 pounds instead of
5000 pounds as I had in my notes. Also, Mr. Easley said
that the 25 and 75 percent of Poison mix that he puts
out for birds 25 percent for Horned Larks and 75 percent
for Finches is 25 percent of bird seed in the mixture
that has been treated with a 25 percent dosage of
Strychnine while the Finches, that hull the seeds before
eating it need a poison dosage of 75 percent so that
the poison is strong enough to kill them from even holding
the hulls of the grain in their beaks before spitting
them out.

I visited with a new shepherd whom I had not met before
who was tending a flock about twelve miles east of Famosa.
This shepherd, Carlos Chamorro, was a Spaniard who had
been in this country five years, having returned to Spain after
his first three years of service here in America, and then
applied and had been given employment again after
a one year stay in Spain. He knew little of Condor but
stated he had seen some big birds feeding on a dead sheep
near a water trough, about one mile up the Canyon from where his camp is located. Mr.
Chamorro wondered if I wanted to shoot Condor if I
should find them. He said he had no gun. I advised him
that were he to be found shooting a Condor that officers of
the law would take him to jail where he would —
likely have to remain for some time. Most Shepherds have the impression that everything wild is to be shot. Therefore I think it advisable that the woolgrowers association be advised that the possession of firearms by foreign employees must be curtailed immediately. I feel that the present threat of losing the use of these foreign laborers will cause Shepherds to slightly see that NO firearms are possessed by these harders.

I drove to the ranch of Hugh and Charlotte Smith that lies about seven miles southeast of Granite Station. Hugh Smith told me that he figured on a three percent death loss in his cattle throughout the year. This does not include young newborn calves, but would only include such calves as lived to the time of being branded and marked. His Calf Crop runs about 87 percent. This would be 87 calves that would live to be branded out of one hundred cows. Of course some of these cows would not be with Calf, others might abort the fetuses before it reached a full development and some might die in the act of giving birth to a Calf. I think it would be safe to say that 87 percent of the Cows that do not have Calves that live % be branded. One-half would loose their Calf at time of birth. This Calf that dies at birth is a favorite food for Condor.

Hugh Smith also said he thought his 87 percent Calf Crop was below many other operators of Kern County but that the annual death loss of adult Cattle at 03 percent was lower than is the case with most Cattlemen in Kern County.
California Condor

Eben McMillan

22 May 1964

West wind—cool—clear with a few high cirrus clouds in the northwest. Had breakfast with Hugh and Charlotte Smith after which I rode with Hugh Smith to the east side of his ranch that dips into Poso Creek. His property runs up the southeast flank of Poso Creek to the ridge-top where it borders the property of John Rofer where I had seen condor passing last fall. The Hugh Smith property is about four miles west of Oak Flat Lookout and includes Pine Mountain on the northeast slope of Poso Creek. This area between the John Rofer area and Pine Mountain has been recognized as a flight pass of condors in the past. This would be on the same flight as the Rancheria and Rattlesnake Grade areas that lay about two miles to the southeast and where so many condor observations have been made in former years. I would like to make observations in this area for at least one day before we end this study to see if condors could be banded into the Smith Property as a means of seeing from whence they came.

I saw an adult Golden Eagle sitting among the branches atop a Buckeye tree that was about twelve feet high and well leaved out. The Eagle flapped its wings and thrashed about in the top of this tree as if it were trying to flush some creature from within or underneath. Soon the Eagle flew out, turned up, and disappeared over Ridge to the west. Hugh Smith said he has heard of Golden Eagles catching few deer but that he has never seen it happen himself even though he has spent his entire lifetime in the hills of Kern and Tulare Counties. He is now 73 years old.

I talked with Mrs. Tiern Stockton who lives east of Bakersfield on a sandy road near where the famous road intersects. She, although having—
been raised in the Bakersfield area, did not know what a Gondor looked like even though she had heard tell of their presence in the Granite Station area. Squirrel poisoning personnel from Kern County had poisoned the Trent Stockton Property yesterday. Mrs. Stockton gave me permission to go over their property to see if any dead animals were in evidence. Mrs. Stockton told me that there were not near as many kangaroo rats on this property as is the case on property they have north of Granite Station. She said that following poisoning operations on the property north of Granite Station two or three years ago that she had seen the ground white with dead rats that had died with their under parts exposed to the sun. I asked her if she thought there would have been as many as four dead rats in an area as large as the yard that surrounded her house, that would have been about seventy feet by fifty feet. She thought there would have been more than four dead Rats in an area this size on the areas of the Ranch North of Granite Station where kangaroo Rats were the thickest. Some areas on this property did not seem to have many Rats she thought. She could not remember seeing Buzzards or Gondor feeding on these dead, poisoned Rats.

Assuming, therefore, that Mrs. Trent Stockton did see poisoned Rats on the ground of their property, north of granite station, as plentiful as two to the size of the yard in which she stood while telling her, and which yard surrounded her house, this would have accounted for a dead rat being on every 1250 square feet of areas that were well populated with Rats, and would account for 25 dead Rats per acre. -
California Condor

Eben McMillan

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This would form a concentration whereby it would not be difficult for a condor or a turkey vulture to pick up ten or twelve poisoned rats in the matter of one hour. Assuming then that each poisoned rat had a minimum of ten grains of poison grain in its pouches and that a condor picked up and swallowed whole ten rats in one hour, it would therefore have in its insides, exclusive of what poison the dead rats had in their systems, one hundred grains of 1080 poisoned grains that would be sufficient to kill a minimum of twenty ground squirrels, and surely any condor.

I drove over the property of Trent Stockton that had been poisoned yesterday with 1080 poisoned potted barley. No dead animals were found. In fact, there were few places where excessive amounts of squirrels seemed to be. On some of the squirrel dens, poison was still evident, and in only a few places did I see evidence where squirrels, or other small mammals, had eaten the poisoned grains. I saw numerous places, where poison had been scattered, by the handful, where no sign of squirrels was evident. Enough poisoned grain had been scattered on this ranch whereby kangaroo rats could have found enough to have killed good numbers of their kind, had there been good numbers of them on this property. I saw very few signs of a large population of kangaroo rats inhabiting any area on the Trent Stockton ranch near Mt. Poso oil fields. Perhaps one should do some thinking about when the rats were poisoned here when plentiful and surely condor deaths could be correlated to that time.
Today was cool with brisk west wind and high thin clouds in morning that thickened by mid-afternoon and thickened while threatening rain in the evening.

A postal card from Mrs. Farnsworth, mailed at Glennville the afternoon of May 22, read thusly: one circling at the cannel corral between Carl West's and Granite Station at about 10 A.M. Thursday May 21, with two buzzards probably feeding on the nite's road casualties. Signed; Farnsworth.

I am sure this is authentic information and probably heralds the coming of condor to the Granite Station area to participate in the squirrel poisoning bill of fare this season.

Talking to Allen still on the phone today he mentioned having heard of two condor having been found poisoned by 1080 poison in Kern County. Mr. Still thought these condor had been sent to the University at California at Davis, where tests were made to identify the cause of death. Still is County Squirrel Poisoner!

Yesterday, Jim Beare, who works for Hugh and Charlotte Smith on their property near Woody, told me that a Kenneth Matten, who had worked with him for about two weeks, told Mr. Beare that he had seen condor for the first time in his life while working on the Cunya Ranch last winter. This Ranch is North of Coalinga, California.
I left home at 10:30 a.m. enroute to east side of the San Joaquin Valley. The weather has been threatening this last week. Light showers have fallen at times but not enough to wet things much. A brisile, cool, west wind was blowing as I drove down the bitterwater valley. I turned North at Dairy Avenue and drove to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Waterfowl Refuge, on west side of Dairy Avenue to the North of Lost Hills on east side of Terry Slough. The Refuge is completely dry now and I understand the water is turned into the dykes in the fall prior to the migration southward of Waterfowl.

I left Dairy Avenue at Avenue B heading towards Alpaugh and continued on this roadway to highway 99. After getting on highway 99 I drove to Tulare where I was told that Tulare County offices are located in Visalia. At County Office in Visalia I was referred to Jim Rutledge, in Porterville, who oversees squirrel poisoning operations. Where Compound 1080 is being used as the poison, only County representatives can give out poison treated with Compound 1080 for use in poisoning rodents. This County representative of the agricultural commissioners office must continue to oversee the application of this 1080 poison during its total usage and in no case is 1080 poison to be left with non-official applicators.

In Porterville I first went to the office of the U.S. Forest Service, where I was introduced to Don Bolander, who is with the Range Wildlife Staff at the U.S. Forest Service office in Porterville.
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Calif. of the Sequoia National Forest. In the same office,
working with Don Bolander, was George Franklin, Game
manager of California Fish and Game Department. Neither
of these men knew anything of condor, had not seen condor
of late, nor had they registered interest in condor throughout
the year.

Mr. Bolander gave me the number of livestock—Cattle,
horses and mules, that had pastured on Sequoia Forest
grazing permits in 1963 as 11,375 including
private lands permits.

Mr. Bolander also gave me reports of condor sightings
by Sequoia Forest Service Lookouts during 1963. They
were as follows.

2 Condor Breckenridge Mt. 7 September 1963—3:50 P.M.
1 " " " 8 July " 10:10 A.m.
1 " " " 7 " " 1:47 P.M.
1 " " " 7 " " 12:00 Noon
3 " " " 6 " " 11:05 A.m.
1 " " " 5 " " 5:30 P.M.

Mr. Bolander mentioned the report that reached his
office where two condor had been found in Kern County,
dead. Their death having been attributed to compound
1080 poison. Bolander told me how to the best of his
knowledge NO 1080 Poison has been released, or put out
on Sequoia National Forest Service lands with the consent
of the U.S. National Forest Service Personnel.
I drove to the home of Jim Rutledge at 601 Villa Street, in Porterville, Calif., at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Rutledge did not set in from his job of poisoning squirrels until a short time before I arrived at his home. It should be understood that when I mention the poisoning of squirrels literally, in all cases it should be realized that the species, California Ground Squirrel (Citellus Bicolor), is being referred to. Mr. Rutledge had not seen Condor this year although he mentioned as having normally seen them during the squirrel poisoning campaigns of former years. He feels quite sure that Condor and Buzzards feed on dead squirrels that were poisoned with compound 1080 mixed grain. Mr. Rutledge said that the strength of the compound 1080 poison that he is currently putting out is one ounce to one-hundred pounds of grain. This mixture, he feels, is strong enough whereby six grains of treated poison-potted, rolled, barley is sufficient to kill any normal, adult California Ground Squirrel in a short time.

Mr. Rutledge told me of counting the number of grains of poison grain in the pouches of one adult California squirrel that had died from the effects of 1080 poison as being one-hundred grains. He thinks that cannibalism in squirrels accounts for about 35 percent of the total of 95 percent death in squirrels in a concentrated campaign. He feels that this 35 percent die up to three weeks after the poisoned grain has been spread out from the effects of-

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Secondary Poison achieved by the remaining living squirrels feeding on the poisoned bodies of others of their species. He also stated of having found the poisoned carcasses of many Kangaroo Rats that have died of the poison put out for squirrels during a squirrel poisoning campaign.

Mr. Jim Rutledge has heard rumours of a non-secondary poison having been discovered that could be very lethal to squirrels but he admits not having had factual evidence of this poison nor has he heard of any research being conducted that would lead to the development of a poison that would be more selective than Compound 1080, and not as dangerous as a secondary poison. He thinks that no poison will ever be developed that will compare with Compound 1080 in effectiveness that is not of a secondary poisoning nature.

Mr. Rutledge has never heard of anyone shooting at, or killing, a Condor, nor has he ever heard of a dead Condor.

When I first discussed Condor problems with Jim Rutledge this evening he stated that Condor had not been seen in the foothills of Tulare County before 1953. This he had based on the fact that he had poisoned squirrels in this area since 1944 and had heard no mention of Condor prior to 1952. He had not seen them. As our conversation progressed Rutledge retracted this statement and reconsidered the matter claiming that Condor must have been in the foothill area of Tulare County prior to 1953.
California Condor

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27 May 1964

I camped last night on the Sheep Range East of Dolando, California. At 3:30 a.m. light showers of rain fell on me. It remained warm. At 7:00 a.m. I drove past Fountain springs enroute to Glennville via White River. Personnel at the California State Forestry Fire Control Station at Fountain springs, three of whom I interviewed, had all heard of condor but none had ever seen the birds nor did they have any knowledge of their appearance, or habits, other than that they were large birds.

About one mile upriver from the old town of White River, I stopped to chat with Lawrence Bowen, a man of 65 plus years, all having been spent in the area of the Sierra foothills of Tulare County, thus being considered as a pioneer resident of this area. In past years Lawrence Bowen has seen condors on numerous occasions flying down White River Canyon past his home in the mornings. He thinks they have spent nights in the rocky area in White river Canyon above his home during periods when they would be feeding in the lowlands west of White River and Woody. He mentioned not having seen condor for the last two years. Mr. Bowen told me he had never heard of anyone shooting a condor, nor had he ever found evidence of a dead condor.

In Glennville I found no one home at the Farnsworth Ranch except the hired man who reported that no condor had shown up in the ranch area for many months.

At Woody, I talked to Woody, who was tending the post office this day in the absence of the official postmaster, told me of her, and several members of her family, seeing a condor on...
California Condor

Edward McMillan

27 May 1964

16 May 1964, at a picnic area on their ranch about 4 miles north-east of Woody, Mrs. Woody said that except for the interest of her son, who is currently attending U.C. at Davis, none of the others would have recognized this bird as a condor. But once brought to their attention by her son all members of the group who were attending a picnic enjoyed seeing the bird, and were all of the opinion that with the peculiar white markings under the wings it was a very beautiful sight to see and that all felt every measure should be promoted to insure the perpetuation of this species.

I met Mr. George Moore on the road from Woody to Delano. Mr. Moore is the Kern County representative in a program that is currently in force to poison squirrels throughout the county. He has been poisoning squirrels in the Woody-Granite Station-Tamnosa area for the last two weeks. We ate our lunches together. Mr. Moore has lived in the Woody area all of his seventy plus years. He was born not many miles from Blue Mountain. His recollections of Condor in early days was rather dim. I doubt that many people of the pioneer group that settled the foothill country of western Sierra Nevada's had any interest in condor. The fact that they did not recognize condor, now causes many of those still living, to think Condor were not present in the early days of the settlement of this country.

George Moore has not seen condor this year. The squirrel poisoning operation he has been overseeing and—
California Condor

Eben M. McMillan
27 May 1964

Operating has mostly been done from Jeep or Pick-ups, and very little squirrel poisoning having been done from horseback. I find one feature common among all who are actively engaged in any squirrel poisoning program, that being that without exceptions, they all seek to overemphasize the importance of poisoning squirrels and to overestimate the size of squirrel populations to a very great extent. In describing the numbers of squirrels in a given area one seldom hears these people speak in terms of hundreds, or even thousands; Rather it is usually in millions. Likewise the dangers that might come to people from these squirrel populations are grossly over-exaggerated. One hears from them much reference to plague area, bubonic area, and diseased areas. This is a condition common among people who guard the public health against such things as Plague of all types and Rabies. They are always selling the fact that their service is vital to the well being of the public, and without which, disease and pestilence would soon run rampant. This is undoubtedly due, in no small measure, to the ambition of these people to keep their jobs.

At Granite station Edna Williams reported that Frank Stockton saw three condors over his ranch about three miles north of Granite station on 15 April 1964.

Going back to George Moore with whom I visited today, while eating our lunch, thinks three grains of 1080 treated grain will kill an adult squirrel. He also thinks that the Margaret Brown condor must have swallowed whole either—
California Condor  
Eden McMillan  
31 May 1964

Poisoned rats or young, small squirrels, that had died of poison and were small enough to be swallowed whole by a condor, in order that poison grain could have fallen from the decayed carcass of this condor. Mrs. Brown was washing it with a water hose as it hung on a chicken wire fence.

George Moore described to me how his father, who had settled in the Ventura County area in the early days had told him of seeing condor that had gouged themselves on the carcasses of dead sheep to the point where they could not get off the ground. Mr. Moore also spoke of seeing a flock of about ten condor, some twenty odd years ago, in the area some four miles north of Woody, Kern Co., California, that fed on the carcass of a dead cow before flying into an oak nearby where they remained while Mr. Moore rode around the tree on horseback within fifty feet of the condor without their flying from the tree.

Edna Williams, of Granite Station, told me that she has associated the occurrence of condor in her area with squirrel poisoning activities since she can remember.

I drove to Poso Creek Sheep Range, east of Tamosa, where the two shepherds Bautista Aleman and Carlos Chamorro gave me information that no condor had been seen since my last visit with them.

California condor  Edwin McMillan  28 May 1964

Up at sunrise—cool north wind blowing—sky clear but considerable haze in the valley bottom. I drove to Bakersfield and the office of M&H Sheep Company where I was told that Mr. Joe Meylas, from whom I want to get deathloss percentage on sheep owned by M&H Sheep Company, would not be in the office until 10:00 A.M. I then drove to office of Kern County Agricultural Commissioner where I was introduced to the assistant agricultural commissioner of Kern County Mr. James Stockton, a member of the well known Stockton family of Granite Station and Bakersfield areas. Mr. James Stockton displayed much concern regarding the information that two condors were reported to have been found in Kern County that had been poisoned with compound 1080 poison.

He asked that did I know of these condors and where had they been taken. I told him the birds were picked up in the Granite Station area and had been turned over officially to the University of California. I told him that I had never been furnished a report of the result of the analyses of these carcasses as yet, but that I did expect to see some sometime in the next few months.

Ben Ensley came into Mr. Stockton's office while I was there. Mr. Ensley and I discussed the squirrel poisoning campaign that is presently being conducted in Kern County and which Mr. Ensley is directing. To my inquiry as to where a poisoning program is going on where numbers of kangaroo rats might be getting some of the wheat put out for squirrels whereby some rats could be poisoned in top of the ground—
California Condor

Eben McHillan 28 May 1969

allowing me a chance to find some and take them for analysis of poison content and number of grains of poison they might have in their pouches. In answer to this question Mr. Easley told me that currently Dan Garcia is running a crew poisoning squirrels on the Rex Ellsworth Ranch of Cummings Valley, where Mr. Garcia had reported to him that great numbers of both rats and squirrels inhabit the area. Mr. Easley mentioned that he had warned Dan Garcia against allowing his crew to throw 1000 poisoned grain in any place except where squirrels might be found for Mr. Easley's supply of poison was fastly diminishing and unless husbanded somewhat might not last until more grain would be forthcoming, by July 1, to stabilize the grain supply for mixing more poison. Mr. Easley mentioned that this shortage of grain was due to the budget set aside for the purchase of grain having been exhausted prior to the issuance of more funds prior to July 1, 1969.

On the advice of Dan Easley as to where Dan Garcia might be found I drove to arvin and then up the Sheep Trail Grade that goes up Comanche Point to the north of Comanche Creek, about 6 miles up from the foot of the grade I came upon the squirrel poisoning camp of the crew from the Rex Ellsworth Ranch who Dan Garcia was supervising in the putting out of poison grain for squirrels. This camp was at a location where two sheds are located about one half mile west of Houseloth Flat and to the south of the -
California Condor

Eben McMillan

28 May 1964

Commence Point road about fifty yards.

A man beeking, an employee of the Red Ellsworth Ranch, who had been helping the squirrel poisoning crew was at the squirrel poisoning camp when I arrived, he having lunched his back two or three days before by lifting on a sack of poisoned grain, and therefore becoming unable to assist in the application of the poisoned grain. Mr. Leake told me the general whereabouts of the area in which Dan Garcia and the crew of three other men were working. He also informed me that they would be back at the camp for lunch between one and two o'clock the afternoon.

I drove my car to horse thief flat and leaving it under the shade of an oak tree hailed south and west into the area where poisoned grain had been scattered for squirrels. I found the body of one dead squirrel and one live Rattlesnake, the latter was sunning itself at the mouth of a former squirrel burrow. At 12:30 P.M. I saw the squirrel poisoning crew wading up a ridge and then continuing on in the direction of the squirrel poisoning camp. I hitched up a ridge and intercepted Dan Garcia and Mr. Walter Leake, as they rode towards camp, the other two employees having gone on to camp before I reached the trail on which they were traveling. Dan Garcia and I chatted briefly after which he and Mr. Leake rode on towards camp with the understanding that I would ride to my car and drive to their camp where I would join them at lunch. This I did, arriving at the camp at 1:58 P.M.
California Condor
Eben McMillan
25 May 1964

Dan Garcia drives back and forth in a Kern County owned pickup truck each night and morning from his home in Bakersfield while the crew of men working for the Rex Ellsworth Ranch remain at the Squirrel Poisoning Camp that I will refer to in the future as the Horsethief Camp even though it is located a distance of less than a mile west of the Horsethief Flat area. Mr. Garcia brings his own lunch. He and I sat on the back gates of our pickups, as we had our lunches, and discussed condor and squirrel poisoning factors while the other members of the Squirrel Poisoning crew, including Mr. Lee King, prepared their own lunch from supplies at this Horsethief Camp that is furnished by the Ranch. Dan Garcia told me while we were eating our lunches that he had only been transferred to the Ellsworth Ranch the last few days to oversee the application of Squirrel Poison from the Horsethief Flat Camp, he having been attending to the application of Squirrel Poison in the Maricopa-Cuyama valley area prior to coming here. He said that while Poisoning on the Hudson property that is located on the Mt. Able-Reyes Station Road that large numbers of Buzzards had been seen in that area and that he had seen two Condors on one occasion, at a distance, while the Hudson men mentioned having seen five or six Condors on one day while poisoning with Mr. Garcia. Dan Garcia told me that Jack Hudson of Maricopa, Calif. had described to him how he, Mr. Hudson, had shot and killed a Condor with a pistol some years ago.
Mr. Hudson had thought the condor to be an eagle, that he claimed, had been killing his calves. Mr. Hudson told Dan Garcia of measuring the wingspread of this condor he had shot with a pistol, but Garcia could not remember the exact measurement but thought Mr. Hudson had given it as somewhere between nine and ten feet.

At 2:37 P.M., following completion of our lunches, Dan Garcia and I were talking when I saw a condor circling at a good height about 1/2 mile west of the Horse-thief Camp. Having positively identified this bird as a condor, with my binoculars, I passed them to Mr. Garcia as the condor drifted our direction and circled a bit to the southwest of our position, but remaining high. Mr. Garcia had difficulty in finding the condor in the binoculars and considerable discussion ensued among those present regarding the size of condor and the situation in their numbers, in recent times. All members of the Squirrel Poisoning crew were about the Camp as this condor was being observed and discussed. At 2:38 P.M., this condor flew out to the southwest.

At 2:38 P.M., an adult condor came from the northeast, quite low, and flying slowly into a brisk wind moved over our heads and commenced to circle a bit to the southwest but no more than two-hundred yards from where we were all standing at the Horse-thief Camp. Dan Garcia—lie lying-halter dealce and I watched this condor intently as it circled over-Heads. We were remarking how trusting it was.
California Condor  
Eben McMillan  
28 May 1964

To circle so close to where human beings could be easily seen on the ground. I could make out at least one of the inside primaries of the right wing were missing from this bird as well as a secondary about two or three feathers in from the last primary feather of the right wing was also missing, giving this birds right wing the appearance of being quite bashed on the outer end. While we were watching and remarking about this bird I did not notice the other two members of the Squirrel Poisoning Crew to be present at the camp where we were. It was while we were watching this bird that Walter Leake stated that last summer, while working on the Redart property that is situated south of the Old Teton Ranch Headquarters about three or four miles distance, he had seen Condor on Numerous Occasions. He mentioned seeing them lots of times several days in succession. I was intently watching the movements of this Condor, with my binoculars, in an attempt to chart its course away from where we were located, for the bird was now moving out to the Southwest, slowly, on a course generally directed towards Frazier Mountain and -- generally on a course over which I have suspected that Condor travel at times on a direct flight from Bear Mountain to Tecuya Mountain, or at times in reversed direction, as from Tecuya to Bear Mountain.

At 2:41 P.M. as I continued to watch the flight of the Condor mentioned above, that was now at a good distance to our Southwest and continuing on towards --
Becuya, or Frazier Mountain, a heard Dan Garcia exclaim to look and see what was coming from the canyon behind us. I turned about to see two condor, extremely low to the ground, coming from a small canyon to the east of where we were and somewhat above our position. Both condor were sailing extremely slow, being able to do so by virtue of the brisk west wind that was blowing uphill to meet them. A high power line crosses this little canyon at its upper reaches and about one-quarter mile distance from where we stood. The two condor had evidently sailed under these power lines, where they cross this small canyon at a considerable height and were now approaching directly towards us, very slowly, as if suspended in mid-air by a string or something of the like. Their flight was very slow and direct, with little oscillation from side to side, or up and down, as they approached. Dan Garcia, Lee King, Walter Leake and I were all intently watching the approach of these two condor when the sound of a shot rang out from across a small draw to the eastward of where we stood near the housekeeper camp and immediately one of the two condor approaching faltered in its onward flight and fell several yards downward flapping and turning from side to side as it dropped. I yelled, "by God they shot one". Dan Garcia cried something to the effect that those damn kids are shooting them.
California Condor  Eben McMillan  28 May 1964

During this action I felt sure the one condor in particular had been brought down completely by being shot, but after falling for about twenty-five feet this condor, that had fallen, regained partial control of its powers to fly and leveled off somewhat while continuing on down the canyon to the south and east, of us. Pumping its wings laboriously and clumsily, and with one of its legs dangling loose and with every indication of being broken, I threw the binoculars on this wounded bird, as it passed by where I stood at a distance of about 200 feet, and could plainly see that the leg that was hanging free and dangling like a rag in the wind, had been broken, no doubt, above the tarsus bone for I could see feathers covering the upper portion of the part of the leg that was dangling loose below the condors body, as it flew.

The wounded condor maintained flight and after passing to the east and south of Horse Thief Camp it set its wings and coasted downward, passing through the low saddle in the ridge to the south of Camp and when last seen was moving downhill, coasting, with wings fixed in a set position, that if held, could carry the bird for a considerable distance while losing altitude all the time. The second condor that came towards us at the time of the shooting gained altitude by flapping its wings at the moment the shot was fired, moved on -
California condor  Eden McMillan  25 May 1964

out Southwest was much ahead of the wounded bird, circled for a few moments after getting out of danger, but circled down and joined the troubled bird as it passed from sight below the ridge to the South.

Going back to the time of the shooting, no sooner had the shot been fired, then Dan Garcia yelled something to the effect that one of the two boys was shooting at the condor. He evidently ran eastward along the fence that encloses the Horse Thief Camp and was calling across the canyon in the direction from which the sound of the Shot came from, to this effect, "Hey you kids, for Christ sake stop shooting those birds. Don't you know it's against the law to shoot them. Do you want to get put in jail? Put that damn gun away and quit shooting those birds." Mr. Garcia continued to berate the boys who were sitting on a pile of rocks, across a small draw from the Camp, about 150 yards from where we had been when the shooting incident occurred, before he came back to where I was intensely now putting down notes. As Dan Garcia approached me he stated to me that I should go over and arrest the two boys, one of whom evidently did the shooting. "The Damn fools," Dan said "will shoot at anything." Garcia also said two

After finishing taking quick notes of happenings up to this part of the incident, I took my Notebook and hiked across the small draw to the east of Camp and out to...
The pile of rocks on which the two young fellows, Howard Binkley and I, were sitting, and talking quietly to each other, as I approached where they sat I mentioned to them that they must be good shots. To this they said nothing, giving only a shrug of the shoulders. I then, on coming closer to them, mentioned that they sure hit one of those birds that had just flown over. "I don't think I hit it," said Howard Binkley. I then stated that I was quite sure the Condor was hit because following the shot, one of the Condors nearly fell and as it flew on, one of its legs dangled from its body. "Condor," exclaimed Binkley, "those were Buzzards. I have seen lots of Condor on Condor Mountain and they are much bigger than those birds. There are millions of Condor over there and they are all big." I asked Binkley where Condor Mountain is, and he told me it was over near Taft. I then asked if Binkley would deny that he shot at the Condor. He said he did not deny that he shot at the bird, but that he did not know it was a Condor. He claimed to have thought it a Buzzard. When I told him that it was also unlawful to shoot at Buzzards he said he had not known that for he had been shooting Buzzards all the time. I then asked Binkley if he had a hunting license. He said he had a hunting license at his house trailer where he lives at the Ranch Headquarters. I asked for his operators license which he produced. It was recorded as follows: Drivers

License issued to Howard Binkley, number of license MH0075,
Date issued 12-11-61 - address of licensee 704 N North Lincoln
California Condor

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street, Taft, California. The gun that was used to shoot at the Condor was a Winchester Bolt Action, Single Shot, 22 caliber, Long-Short and Long Rifle-. Model 67. I told Binkley that the information I was getting was to be turned over to the proper authorities, as it was my duty, as a citizen, not to see such acts committed without proper action being taken.

I then photographed the area surrounding the Horse Thief Camp trying to show the relationships of the area and the direction from which the Condors came from and where they were shot at as well as the saddle in the ridge southwest of the Amigo beyond which the Condor was seen to his appear.

Following this photographing Dan Garcia told me two more Condors had flown part over the Camp while I was even talking to the two boys from where the shooting had come. He said these last two Condors were higher than were the two that were shot at.

I then drove to Arvin, Calif. and phoned State Game Warden Clanton's office with no answer. I then phoned Warden Tharp in Tehachapi, and was told he was out on duty. I then phoned Warden Shackelford who told me to call Warden Reed. Warden Reed was called and upon being assessed of the situation came to Arvin to meet me.

While waiting for Reed to arrive I called home and also Jan McMillan informing him of the incident. During this time I also called Warden Clanton on the phone. I wanted him to follow this matter from the start, him being the captain of Game Wardens in Kern County. This was done in order that all aspects of this incident would be known and would be fresh-
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In his mind from the very beginning,

warden John Reed came. I followed him to Tejon Corrals
at mouth of Commandche creek where I left my pickup,

got in with warden Reed in state car and drove with him to

Horsethief Camp. As we started up the sheep-trail

grade we met Dan Garcia coming down grade. He told us

that should we wish to arrive at Horsethief camp in time
to find the men there, that we would have to hurry, for they
had been preparing to drive on to Ranch Headquarters, in

Cummings Valley, as he was leaving thirty minutes before. We

drove up sheep-trail grade in a hurry but found the Horsethief

camp vacated of all men when we arrived. Continuing directly

on to the Ranch Headquarters of Rex Ellsworth, in Cummings

Valley, we first drove to the house of Ranch manager Bill

Bailey. When we mentioned our mission to him he voiced

much concern at losing the efforts of Mr. Binkley should we

take him away to jail for he mentioned having much trouble in

keeping hired help on the place. He nevertheless was not in favor

of allowing anyone to shoot at, or hit, Condor without their

being apprehended. Mr. Bailey stated that he was not in favor

of destroying any form of wildlife that was not doing any
direct harm to humans. He said he first saw a Condor last

fall when five or six of them came to feed on a dead steer

that had died in a small field north-west of his house. Mr.

Bailey mentioned that he thought Condor and Buzzards did

a service to livestock men by clearing up dead animal

carcasses that would otherwise rot and breed flies while-
smelling up the country. He then told Warden Reed and I that the law had to be enforced if it was to mean anything. So for us to go ahead and toss Binkley in jail if there was no other way for us to handle the case.

As we finished talking to Mr. Bailey, Mr. Leake and Lee King drove up in a red pickup. Warden Reed asked them if they saw Binkley shoot at the condor. Mr. Leake said he heard the shot, saw the condor dive downward, then fly on out to the south, out of sight behind the ridge, but that he did not see a leg hanging down on the bird even though he heard me mention that the condor had a leg hanging down. Mr. Leake thought I could see the broken leg better with the binoculars.

Warden Reed and I then drove to the trailer-house home of Howard Binkley that was located about 150 yards south of the barn at Ranch headquarters. Mr. Binkley came out of his trailer house and readily admitted to Warden Reed that he had shot at the condor. In answer to Warden Reed's question of why did he do it, Mr. Binkley shrugged his shoulders and said, "I don't know." Mr. Reed then asked him if he did not know it was against the law to shoot a condor. Binkley said that he thought the bird was a Buzzard. Whereupon he was told by Warden Reed that Buzzards were also protected by law that no large bird can be shot without breaking the law -- excepting a horned owl. Binkley did not know this to be the case. Warden Reed then issued Howard Binkley a citation to
California Condor — Eben E. McMillan 25 May 1964,
appear in the justice court in Tehuacapi at 10:00 A.M.
on June 3, 1964.

Mr. Warden Reed and I then drove to Horse-thief Camp
and there Warden Reed picked up the .22 caliber rifle
that Binkley had used in shooting the condor. Mr. Binkley
having told Warden Reed where it could be found at the time
Warden Reed was issuing the Citation at the Binkley House-
trailer a short time before, while Warden Reed went to the
Horse-thief Camp for the gun, I hiked up the Canyon
down which the two Condors had flown moments before
being one of them was wounded by a shot from Mr.
Binkley’s .22 caliber rifle. I thought the birds may
have come from eating on a carcass due to their flying
so low. I also searched for evidence of feathers that
might have fallen from the wounded bird, but found none.
And neither did I see feathers fall from the bird when
it was hit even though I distinctly heard the bullet
hit with a sharp thunk. I then led Warden Reed
to the exact spot from which Binkley had fired the shot,
and showed him the stub end of a cigarette that had been
smoked by one of the men as they sat on these rocks.

We then drove down Sheep-trail Grade - I let Warden Reed
at foot of grade he driving on towards Bakersfield, I to Amboy
where I got some groceries, then returned to Sheep-trail Grade where
I spent the night camped but on Commanche Point inside
the property of Rex Ellsworth.
I was in Arvin at 6:45 a.m., where I phoned Jan, and also my home, after which I drove up sheep trail Grade, arriving at Horse thief Camp as squirrel poisoning crew were ready to leave on horseback, to scatter poison. Dan Garcia was not accompanying the crew today as a new man had arrived to replace Howard Binkley, who was to remain at Ranch Headquarters to work while Lee King had recuperated to an extent whereby he was going to work today. This being the case, Dan Garcia did not have a horse that was trustworthy which he could ride. Thus he took the County Pickup and drove out to study the area on the Rex Ellsworth Ranch that still remains to be poisoned. I hiked south from Horse thief Camp in search of the wounded condor that was shot yesterday, should it have went down in an area in which it could be seen.

The morning was clear. A brisk west wind blew over the ridges, but it was calm and warm in the steep canyon bottoms. The ground over which I hiked had been poisoned, some of it as late as yesterday, while I hiked. I could see members of the squirrel poisoning crew working to the south-east of my position, about one mile. I also could see Dan Garcia, driving his pickup out on Points that overlooked the valley below, and hiking about investigating the squirrel poisoning operation. Turkey buzzards were seen hunting the area from 9:15 a.m. on throughout the day. At 11:50 a.m. I returned to Camp to find warden-
PHONE FAIRVIEW 7-2111
EXT. 2306

SELDON MORLEY

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER
COUNTY OF KERN

AGRICULTURAL BLDG.,
2610 M STREET
BAKERSFIELD, CALIF.
John Reed Talking with Dan Garcia. At 11:55 A.M.

Mr. Seldon Morley, Agricultural Commissioner, County of Kern, drove into Horse Thief Camp with Ben Easley. Mr. Morley explained that the News reporters were all over the place, around Bakersfield, gathering material for an article on the condor shooting incident yesterday. The purpose of his trip was to get to Dan Garcia before the News reporters did, in order that he could advise Mr. Garcia regarding what to say about the incident as it would have a bearing on how the Agricultural Commissioners Office might appear. Mr. Morley particularly wanted Dan Garcia to make it plain to anyone seeking News that Mr. Howard Binkley was not an employee of the Kern County Agricultural Commissioners Office and was only under the jurisdiction of Overseer Dan Garcia.

While the crew was in the field engaged in the putting out of poison, and that during the lunch break, at which time the shooting incident occurred, Mr. Garcia had no responsibility over what any of the crew did, providing such action did not interfere with the treatment or handling of the supply of Compound 1080 treated Poison Grains. Mr. Morley told Dan Garcia, when a News man comes to you, which they probably will do tonight, tell them the truth. Don't hold back anything, but be awfully careful that they do not get you to say something that is not so. They are good at that sort of thing," he said.

Mr. Seldon Morley told me that in conducting Pest Control—
programs the agricultural commissioners office expects

to kill some animals by mistake. In this statement he
was referring to the two condor that had been found in
kern county. Before making this statement he asked me if
it were jan and I that picked up those birds. I told
him it was. To his question as to where they went I
told him the university of california. This ended his questions.
referring back to his mention of his office always expecting
to kill some animals by mistake in a pest control
program, mr. morley stated that this is always the case. Some
horse gets poisoned, on a cow, on a dog; these are
unavoidable incidences in such a large program, he said.

Mr. morley stated to me that the pesticide problem is

getting to be a "hot-potato." He thinks his office has
enough trouble now without some news correspondent
plastering headlines all over the papers that the kern
county agricultural commissioner is hiring crews of men
to go out and poison squirrels, shooting condor
in their spare time. Something like this, mr. morley said,

he would really worry about. From what I could gather,

Mr. morley feels that the loss of one or two condor per
year is a cheap price to pay for minimizing the numbers of
California ground squirrels. He seems completely oriented towards
economic values and seems to understand little of ecological
responsibility or dangers that could accrue from unmindful
tampering with complex factors that still remain unsolved by
the most intelligent of men, or groups of men.
California condor  Eben McDonald  24 May 1964

I still feel that Ben Easley remains one of the few men in public employment who remains completely honest regarding my search for information in this condor survey. He has never indicated any effort to withhold information from me. Today, Mr. Morley, Ben Easley's boss, several times reiterated his desire to have his people implicated with this condor shooting incident, or any other condor incident, to tell the truth, but be careful of statements that might be misleading and not defendable.

Morley and Easley left for Tehachapi at 12:30 p.m. Warden Reed, at my request, called Fresno Office of Fish and Game, inquiring about the use of a plane to search for the wounded condor. This was at 1:15 p.m. He was told a plane could be sent from the Los Angeles area. This was done. Reed met plane in Tehachapi and it was over Horse Thief Camp at 2:55 p.m. and continued to search the area south and east of Horse Thief Camp until after 4:00 p.m. I also searched this area on foot.

While searching in Canyon south and east a bit, from Horse Thief Camp and about two miles distance from this camp, I saw an adult condor pass northeastward over the Canyon to a point near the head of this Canyon where the condor circled for about two minutes before flying off towards the north. This condor showed gaps in its right wing out near the end. The Fish and Game plane was flying in this same area as the condor.
California Condor  Eben B. McMillan  29 May 1964

was present. The Condor was at a higher elevation
than was the plane. At 4:25 another Condor was
sighted over nearly the same point on the ridge, at the west
side of the canyon in which I was hiking, as was
the Condor when first sighted at 4:00 P.M. This second
Condor also showed gaps in the feathers at the end
of the right wing. I was not close enough to identify
just which feathers were missing. This second Condor was
also an adult, was flying close to ground, over a point
in the ridge to the west. I would think both observations
could be of the same Condor from the feather gaps in
the end of right wing. The plane had left the area
when the second Condor observation was recorded.

During my search on foot this afternoon I observed
five bodies of three dead Squirrels. One kangaroo Rat,
and one wood-Rat (Neotoma sp). I dissected the kangaroo
Rat and found it had no Poison Grain in its Pouches, but
did have a considerable amount of undigested grain
in its stomach.

Buzzards were about the area during the time I was
hiking today. Undoubtedly Buzzards feed on Poisoned
ground squirrels although I have not witnessed them
in the act of tearing the liars off a Squirrel ear. Yet,
I returned to Horsechief Camp at 6:05 P.M. to find
Warden Reed waiting for me. The squirrel poisoning crew at
Rat Ellsworth Ranch were in camp. Warden Reed told of
seeing about 2 dozen buzzards during the 75 minute
California Condor  

Eben McMillan  

29 May 1969

Flight in the Fish and Game search plane, this afternoon, but they saw no condor. The first Condor I saw this afternoon was near the plane on at least one occasion. Warden Reed said that during the flight, the pilot, when crossing over Commando Creek and out over the flat covered, bald, hills to the south, showed him how the plane would be pushed upward as much as 600 ft. per minute by updrafts of air. The pilot thus thought that were a wounded condor able to hold its wings out, these currents could carry it a great distance without any effort on the part of its bird. He therefore thought the Condor that was wounded yesterday could have traveled a great distance.

Warden Reed told me that while waiting for me to return to Horseshoe Camp this evening he had talked to Borneo Harris, who said he was the one who had encouraged Howard Binkley to shoot at the Condor.

Warden Reed left Horseshoe Camp about 6:30 p.m. heading down Shap Trail Grade. I remained to prepare myself some supper and chat with the squirrel poisoning crew, who were now relaxing on their cots, they having eaten some time before.

Driving down the Shap Trail Grade at 7:30 p.m. I met three young men in a jeep, all with .22 caliber rifles, one of which at least, had a telescope sight. I asked these young fellows if they had seen any lions, or Bears, to shoot at. They stated they had seen none, but were looking for some. "We shoot 'em all," one of them said. They stated having seen Warden Reed further down the Grade. It being late and 9 in a hurry, I drove down grade and on home by 10:30 p.m.
California Condor  June 1964

With Mrs. Gladys McMillan accompanying me, I left for
Bakersfield, Calif. at 8:15 a.m. where I was supposed to
meet with representatives of the District Attorney's Office
in regards to the handling of the Condor shooting
case. I was in the D.A.'s office waiting room at 9:55 a.m.

After a twenty-five minute wait I was met and led
to his office by Mr. Tony Klein. Mr. Klein is an
assistant District Attorney. The first information he
wanted was a general description of the Condor
and its habits. He said he knew nothing of Condor
and wanted enough information where-by his knowledge
of the subject we were about to discuss would be such that
he would understand the problem more fully. I gave
Mr. Klein a brief summary of Condor whereabouts
and their present dilemma. He then asked for a

general resume of conditions and activities that led up to the
incident where the Condor was wounded. This I did.

Following this meeting with Mr. Klein, whereby we went
over all facets relative to the Condor incident, Mr. Klein
gave me his thinking as to what could assume
might develop in regard to setting a conviction. First
he stated that without a corpus delicti, or body of the
crime such as the carcass of the bird or other pertinent
evidence, it would be quite difficult to prosecute the case.

Without the body of the bird there would have to be a

confession from Berenice Harris that he saw Howard Binkley
shoot the bird. This would be ample proof that Binkley,
California Governor  |  June 1964
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did fire and shoot at the Condor. It must be remembered that neither Juan Garcia nor I actually saw the shot fired. There being an oak tree between us and the place where Howard Binkley and Bonnie Harris sat when the shot was fired. Nevertheless, Mr. Klein gave me every reason to believe the District Attorney's Office of Kern County, would pursue the case with utmost diligence. He also informed me that all would have to pass the recommendation of the District Attorney before anything could be done on it.

I was then ushered into the Office of Investigator Taylor, at D.A.'s Office, who wanted all testimony on the case I had. It might be well here, to remind that Warden Clinton and Warden Reed came into the Office of Assistant District Attorney Tony Klein before I left and listened to the latter portion of the information I was giving Mr. Klein relative to factors that led up to and including, the Condor shooting incident. They were still in the Office of Mr. Klein when I was transferred to the Office of Investigator Taylor. A Secretary was in the Office of Investigator Taylor who took down all information I gave on events leading up to and during the incident when the Condor was fired upon, and wounded. This was done in shorthand. Nearing the closest my giving information in Investigator—Taylor's Office, Mr. Klein was called in and asked if he had any questions that he would care to ask me that might be entered in the written material the Secretary was taking down.

The only question Mr. Klein asked me was—did—
California Condor  
EbenMcMillan  
1 June 1964

I feel myself competent enough to satisfactorily identify a Condor under normal conditions. I stated that it would be my thinking that I would be able to identify a Condor, in its natural surroundings, as well as any person could.

The information I had on the Condor shooting case being all recorded, I was ushered from the Office of Investigator Taylor, by Mr. Klein. It might be well to record here that prior to Mr. Klein's return to the Office of Investigator Taylor, I had occasion to ask Mr. Taylor, or his Secretary, how Tony Klein spelled his name. Mr. Taylor did not know and his Secretary was a bit hesitant in remembering it. This was due, Mr. Taylor informed me, to the fact that Mr. Klein had not been with the District Attorney's Office for any length of time.

As Mr. Klein walked with me from the Office of Investigator Taylor, I was informed by him that the plans now were to wait and see if Howard Binkley pleaded Not Guilty in the Justice Court in Tehachapi on June 3, at 10:00 AM, when he is to appear to answer the citation that Warden Reed served on him the evening following the Condor shooting incident. Should he plead guilty, his case will be closed there and he will pay whatever penalty is assessed by the Court providing a penalty is assessed. Should Howard Binkley plead Not Guilty and ask for a trial, then the District Attorney's Office—
California Condor  
Flown McMillan  
1 June 1964

of Kern County, will review the case and should they
feel there is ample evidence for a conviction they
will continue the case and ask for a prosecution of
Mr. Binkley on the grounds that he committed an
unlawful act by shooting at the condor. With this
last word of advice I was set to to myself, whereby
I left the District Attorney's office and joined Mrs.
McMillan for lunch.

At Chuchupate Ranger Station, District Ranger:

Gary Plisco informed me, when we first met, of hearing
about the Condor shooting incident in the newspaper.
I asked if he had been alerted that the Condor had
been wounded and would probably die, thereby making
it important that all Forest Service Personnel be on
the lookout for the remains of a dead condor, or any
Condor alive, that might appear suspicious by its
acting as if it had a broken leg or sick in any way.

Mr. Plisco said he had a report from Frazier Mountain Lookout
last weekend whereby the lookout there had recorded seeing a
condor going down somewhere to the east of the lookout.
Mr. Plisco said an alert had gone out that this condor had gone
down and that warden Knolls of Fillmore was supposed
to be organizing a search party to hunt for this
Condor that had gone down. Plisco understood that the condor
in question had fallen from a flock of other condors that were
circling somewhere near the Frazier Mountain Lookout. Gary
Plisco said that one of his men had been informed of—
This incident and would probably know considerable about what took place and that should I care to walk out to the Warehouse that stands behind the Chuchupate Ranger Station about 100 yards that he would gladly allow me to question this man. I mentioned my eagerness to talk to anyone who might know anything of this Condor that went down. Mr. Plisco then led the way to a warehouse where eight or ten men were gathered. Mr. Plisco entered this building and called to one of the men to come outside with us. Mr. Plisco did not introduce me to this man, who after being asked by Plisco to inform me regarding what knowledge he had towards the incident whereby a Condor was to have fallen from a flock of Condors on Tassajera Mountain last weekend. This man expressed a Complete Ignorance of the question asked him, and gave every indication that any information he might have of Condor would be little, if any. I doubt that he knew what a Condor was. He seemed very eager to get back to the Warehouse where the other men were.

As we walked back to Ranger Station Mr. Plisco asked me that should I ever find the body of a Condor he would like very much to have it stuffed and displayed in his office. He said Mr. Abbott of Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History had promised to stuff a Condor for him should he find one, or get someone to turn over a dead Condor to him. I told him that were I to -
find a dead condor, that I would not move it until
the California Department of Fish and Game had been notified
and their written permission obtained. Better I
thought, should anyone find a dead condor, they would
do well to notify the nearest Fish and Game Warden and
leave the bird be until said Warden came and took possession
of same. I made it clear that condor are the responsibility of
the California Department of Fish and Game and of no responsibility
to the federal Government whatsoever.

Returning to Ranger station. Ranger Plisco phoned the man who
is tending the lookout on Frazier Mountain and allowed me to
talk with him about the condor dropping incident. This man
gave a very incoherent account of seeing a condor drop from
sight behind a ridge on the morning of 28 May 1964 at 9:00
a.m. This person claimed the condor went out of sight to
the southeast somewhere in the vicinity of highway 99. This
would be at a greater distance than one could follow a
condor with glasses from the top of Frazier Mountain. He
said he was sure it was not a plane for he saw it flap its
wings. During the conversation the Frazier Mt. Lookout man
spoke of wanting to learn more of condor. That he is a
resident of the Ventura area but only saw condor for first time
since he came to Frazier Mountain the last two weeks. He also
stated that a lady from the Audubon Society had been to
Frazier Mountain lookout a few days ago and where
she did not see condor there mentioned to him of
having seen another condor on Mt. Pinos the day previous.
california condor  Eben Thesmillan  1 June 1964

I gathered from my visit at Chuchupate Ranger Station

Today that no alert has been sent out by the head Office
in Santa Barbara warning all forest service personnel to be
on the watch for a disabled or dead condor. Jan said he
had called the office of las Padres Forest Supervisor
William Hansen in santa Barbara and been assured that
an all forest service alert in las Padres district would so
out for a close watch for any sign of the condor that
was shot, which event Jan told to Supervisor Hansen
d Detailed during the Telephone conversation. It appears
evident that anything, except fires and hunters,
is going to get little attention from the U.S. Forest Service
Personnel until the public comes out with a demand
that other factors either receive due consideration or
a new administration be made to replace that how
in commands from the top right down to the
district Ranger. Below the District Ranger one seems to
for interest and concern for many things that seem
below the dignity of the higher officials, such as condor welfare
and indiscriminate, and malicious use of firearms within
the National Forests, by the hunting public. Where the officials of
the forest service seem to promote this sort of use, the fire
control officers and their crews disapprove. One thing seems
sure; that being that until a sense of responsibility for
all wildlife, other than Game species, and including Condor
in las Padres-Sequoia and Angie National forests in
particular is forthcoming, all efforts to stabilize Condor
Numbers and thwart the present downward trend in their numbers, will only be a loose cause that will end up with the greater part of the blame for wildlife decimation falling on those who did too little and demanded not enough of our public officials. Anyone with experience in handling working people should be able to foresee this need. In a business corporation a board of directors set at the top. Their only purpose is to see that any employee, from the management down, who fails in his duty towards the corporation, is moved out immediately. This watchfulness maintains a deep respect among all working personnel of said corporation and allows it to move along with continual improvement. This feature government bureaus lack, and the degeneration that sets in without a watchdog influence can be evidenced in the Forest Service today. Where is Jack Gains at present?

I am told he is still in the employment of the U.S. Forest Service and working in the district Ranger Office in Ojai. Now I am sure that any man who has had experience in management of private business would agree that Mr. Gains is doing himself, now anyone else, by being maintained in the Los Padres National Forest Service Personnel list. Jack Gains will have little, if any, respect for people guarding the public interest. If a normal case, he will continually work to alienate respect among his fellow workers for anyone showing an interest in what is happening within the forest service by any member of the public.
In Bakersfield I stopped at M+R Sheep Company and was told that an annual death loss of between 3 and 4 percent among adult Sheep is expected by their operation. Personnel of the M+R Sheep Company had read the account of the condor shooting incident that appeared in the Bakersfield Californian on Friday, May 29. There is little doubt but that work will go out to all Shepherds to not shoot any large birds, for Shepherds would realize how harmful newspaper headlines would be to their cause in securing and importing foreign Shepherds, should they tend...Basque Shephersh Shoots one of few remaining California Condor.

I called Mrs. Walter Slaytor at San Emigdio Ranch to inform her of the condor shooting incident and ask her to have Mr. Slaytor alert his workmen and cowboys to be on the lookout for anything looking like a wounded or dead condor. Mrs. Slaytor said she would gladly help me out in this way. Mrs. Slaytor also registered much concern when told of the condor having been wounded. Women generally appear much more considerate of wild creatures that are being oppressed by human activities than do their menfolk.
High, thin clouds shaded the sky and it was cool as I
and I drove to Tehachapi, Kern County, California by 9:50 A.M.
where Howard Binklebury was to appear in Justice Court at 10:00 A.M.
in answer to a citation issued him on 28 May for shooting
at a Condor. Captain of Fish and Game wardens, Clanton,
with wardens Reed and Tharp were present when we arrived.
Howard Binklebury showed up at 9:25 A.M. and was processed
in Court, plead not guilty. Was released to the
Deputy Sheriff on $250.00 Bond. Mrs. Bailey, wife of the former
at Ellsworth Ranch, arrived with Binklebury's Wife, Mrs. Bailey
furnished the money to get Binklebury's bail.

I signed warrant or complaint, in Justice Court in
Tehachapi, that would hold Binklebury in Case the Sheriff
Turned him loose should he not be able to post bail. The
bail was obtained, so I was Fold.

Ian and I then drove to Los Angeles

Following the processing in Court of the Binklebury Case, Ian
and I discussed fish and game regulations with Clanton,
Reed and Tharp. We all agreed that a clearer and more
specific wording is needed in the Game Code, in order to
give officers or individuals, definite understanding as to
what can and what cannot be done in apprehending
persons who shoot, take, molest, pursue, or otherwise present
a problem to non-game species of wild birds and mammals.
We felt that non-game birds that are protected should enjoy
the same wording in the Game Code, in regards to how they
shall be protected as do Game birds.

california condor  Eben McMillan  3 June 1964
California condor  Eben McMillan  3 June 1964

Jan also specifically asked Warden Clanton, was he correct in stating that the first time he (Jan) stopped by at Clanton's office in Bakersfield, Calif. that a monthly meeting of Clanton and the Game Wardens under his jurisdiction was in session, and at this time when asked by Jan as to whether he had observed any condor of late, or some statement to that effect, Warden Clanton answered him with the statement that, even though it might seem ridiculous for him to say, he (Clanton) would still have to admit that there was a condor to fly over he would not be able to identify it with certainty. To this question of Jan's, Warden Clanton stated that to the best of his knowledge that was the case. The factor making this statement of Warden Clanton's important was how it showed the integrity of the man. Here was a public official who was not afraid to tell the truth.

Jan and I drove to Los Angeles in P.M. where we spent the time from 2:30 P.M. to 4:25 P.M. with Dr. Kenneth Stager, Senior Curator of Ornithology and Mammalogy at the Los Angeles County Museum in Exposition Park, Los Angeles. Our first interest was in seeing and getting the data on the Warden Stockton condor as well as the Trapped condor that was found hanging in a tree south of Bakersfield, in 1947. Dr. Stager gave us at his valuable time and personally saw that all condor material in the collection was made available for our records.

There seems to be every indication that the Stockton condor did not die of broken bones or bruises as was
California Condor  Eben McMillan  3 June 1964

suspected by the Stocktons and Mrs. Mona Carver, who banded it. Dr. Stager stated that this condor, that is recorded in his
Notes as 12 June 1960, was in very poor condition when it reached
his office, it only weighing thirteen pounds at that time. He also stated that the liver of this bird was in a very degenerated shape, this having been due, Dr. Stager thought to disease or poison. This condor nevertheless made up into a wonderful study skin and remains, I think, as the most satisfactory specimen from which valuable color data and feather development can be obtained of any specimen I have yet seen. It was an adult plumage and its head was all orange.

Dr. Stager stated that to the best of his recollection, the
1947 condor from the Bakersfield, Kern Co. area had been caught in a trap and had flown into a nearby tree where the trap had become lodged in between limbs of the tree, thereby hanging the bird by its leg when it tried to fly again. He also thought this condor had been alive when found, but very near expiring from the ordeal. Nevertheless it weighed 20 pounds when
put on the scales after coming into Dr. Stager's possession.

Dr. Stager understood the threat to all wildlife by the
multitude of hunters that swarm. Particularly the public lands during hunting season. He recognizes this to the extent that, he himself never ventures forth onto public lands during the hunting seasons. That is, public lands where hunting is permitted by the public with no regulations as to numbers.

Dr. Kenneth Stager stated that during 1960 and 1961 he had done-
California Condor  
Eben MacMillan  
3 June 1969

Considerable research on turkey vultures in the area of Tafo Creek in Santa Susana Mountains and north of the towns communities, of Santa Susana and Community Center in Ventura County. Considerable time was spent in the field of this area by Dr. Stager, most of which was in watching for turkey vultures flying. Dr. Stager was ever anticipating seeing Condor during this project. This he did not do. No Condor were observed by him at any time in this area.

Dr. Stager said he has had no records of Condor having been south of the Simi Valley or east of Chatsworth in recent years. Perhaps the only place that Condor enter Los Angeles County now might be north of highway 126 and west of Los Angeles County road running from Castaic to Lake Hughes.

Dr. Stager asked us how many Condor there are left. We explained our position on this and stated that until we compile our information it would be unwise for us to make any guess, and guess it would be, we stated that our findings will be available by November of this year.

Dr. Stager, when asked by Jan as to what he would think important measures to take in the future of Condor preservation, stated that he had given much thought to this problem but had been at a loss to develop sound plans along this line. He said that the first question, visiting Ornithologists, or Naturalists, ask him when they come to L.A. County Museum is, how are the Condor doing. He feels the preservation...
California Condor

Eben M. Mollison
June 1964

of condor as a most important responsibility to everyone, and especially to those in southern California.

Dr. Stager told us of a Mr. Johnson, who, through correspondence, several years ago with Mr. Stager, stated that at a summer home that he owned in Pine Canyon, near Big Pine, in Inyo County, this Mr. Johnson had observed condor for several years and the last year two condors were seen in the Big Pine area in Owens Valley. There was a pair of adults and a black headed juvenile with them. Stager thought these Johnson's knew condor, for they had produced condor feathers on one occasion to assure their identification. This Mr. Johnson had lived somewhere on the outskirts of Los Angeles at the time he wrote and visited Dr. Stager. Mr. Stager has not heard from him for several years. He will, nevertheless, mail us the correspondence he received from this Mr. Johnson in years past, in the case we should care to go to Lone Pine and look into the matter.
At 2:12 P.M. today, I called the Office of Kern County District Attorney regarding the present disposition of the Howard Binkley, Condor shooting incident. I was connected with Deputy Frank St. Clair who said he has been assigned to the case. Mr. St. Clair asked me how many witnesses were implicated; I told him five or six. He then asked if I would write him a letter in which I would give the names of all the witnesses. I then told Mr. St. Clair that Investigator Taylor had this material already. He then asked if that would be Mr. Taylor of the Sheriff’s Department. I said no, it is Mr. Taylor of the District Attorney’s Office. He seemed surprised at this information but said he would see over this afternoon and get what information Mr. Taylor had. I then asked if he were to handle the case. He said yes, he was. That the case is slated for June 12, 1964.

Mr. St. Clair said he should get together with me a day or so before the trial.
At 9:27 A.M. I called the District Attorneys Office of Kern County and asked for Mr. Frank St. Clair. This Office is in Bakersfield. I was informed by a secretary that Mr. St. Clair was not in at the moment, but that he was expected anytime. I left word for Mr. St. Clair to contact me when he returned to his office.

Mr. St. Clair called before 9:45 A.M. I asked him what the present disposition of the Binkley, Condor shooting case was. He informed me that the District Attorneys Office had asked for, and received, an extension of time, from the Justice Court in Tehachapi, and that the June 12th trial date had been cancelled. I then asked Mr. St. Clair what plans the District Attorneys Office had in following the case. To this question I was told that an investigator would be assigned to the case to gather evidence, and that if such evidence seemed strong enough to insure a conviction of Mr. Binkley, the District Attorneys Office would go through with the case. Otherwise the case would be dropped. I was then told by Mr. St. Clair that the case, as it now stands, is not strong. "They have not found the body of the bird yet, have they," he asked me. I replied No. He then added, as if attempting to discourage me, that there were no witnesses to the actual shooting. I said Yes there were. That the other boy, Burman Harris, was sitting with Binkley when the actual shooting took place. That he has already admitted to Burden Reed that he told Binkley to shoot at the bird. To this Mr. St. Clair stated that Harris may lie. Not tell the truth. I then asked that should I call at his office next Monday, or Tuesday, would he be at that time,
California Condor  Eben McMillan  9 June 1964

furnish me with what information he had on the case. To this inquiry Mr. St. Clair said he would give me what information he had on the case.

At the time during this discussion with Mr. St. Clair this morning, he asked me what particular interest I had in the case. I informed him I was part of a team that were doing research on Condor problems and that I wanted all the information possible on this case, for my records, because the actions and thoughts that public officials, as well as everyone else involved, would surely be an important part of my records.

A letter was received in the mail, addressed to me, today, from the Justice Court Tehachapi Judicial District, W. L. Woods, Judge, Proc. No. 97, Tehachapi, California, informing me that Court Trial Case #2560, Binkley, at the request of the District Attorney's Office had been continued to July 10, 1964 at 10:00 Am. in that Court.

After 11:30 Am. today someone, a man, called from Los Angeles saying he was a representative of the Associated Press and wondered if I am or I would want to make some statement regarding the Condor project. Prior to the Tucson meeting this coming November. I referred him to Carl Kochheister in New York who would issue any statements on this study,
California Condor  Eben McChillan  10 June 1964

It was damp this morning with a thin coastal ground fog blowing in about 6:30 AM on a cool west wind. This fog lifted about 8:00 AM, but the sun remained shaded by a low layer of clouds that did not look like the rain holding type.

I left home at 8:30 AM and drove to Avenal, in Fresno County, where I chatted with several Shepherds who are tending flocks of sheep that are on the barley stubble south and west of Avenal. The Shepherds had seen Ravens and Buzzards come and feed on dead sheep, but no Condor. I saw several Buzzards wheeling above a dead sheep carcass that lay about one quarter mile north of highway 33 and about one mile northwest of Avenal. One Buzzard was on the ground feeding on this carcass. A Shepherds Camp was about 1/2 mile west of where it lay.

Another dead sheep carcass that appeared to have been eaten on considerably lay south of the 33 highway about 1/4 mile and one mile west of Avenal. A Shepherds Camp was within 200 yards of this carcass. Two Ravens and two Turkey Buzzards were circling above this carcass when I was chatting with the two Shepherds who were in the Camp nearby.

Driving towards Coalinga on highway 33 I found two dried carcasses of an immature Golden Eagle that was lying about six feet north of the edge of the pavement on the west bank of the wash that crosses highway 33 about two-
Miles Northwest of Avenal, this Young Eagle could possibly have been hit by a car, or it fed on some mammal that had been road-killed, but from all appearance, I would judge it to have been shot from the back as it perched on the power pole that stood close-by, where it lay. The Tail feathers showed much white. The carcass could have been there for three months, or more.

Driving north of Coalinga, on highway 33, while still in the foothills but about to emerge out on the flats, I saw an immature Golden Eagle circling some distance to my west. After circling briefly, this Eagle flew towards and over me, heading eastward. An adult Golden Eagle was observed near the Cantua Creek bridge as it passed in front of me, then skidded low over a rise, which appeared to have been growing. This Eagle was no doubt, hunting.

I drove up Cantua Creek to the Lyle Christel Ranch that is located in the bottom of this creek, the Ranch buildings that is. It is on this Ranch where Kenneth Hatten had been working last spring when he was supposed to have seen Condor. The Ranch buildings are situated up Cantua Creek about five miles from the highway 33 turnoff. The countryside is rolling hills that are deeply scarred with gullies and rock outcrops that, in some instances, run for more than 1/2 mile, forming slides and cliffs that serve as good nesting and roosting sites for Raven-Barn Owls, Sparrowhawks, Cliffs Swallows, and White-throated Swifts. The Cantua Creek itself,
California Condor  
Eben McMillan  
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has water in its bed after one sets into the canyon about two miles. The water is highly mineralized with salts and gypsium that has washed from the hillsides, most of which appear well mineralized and rather marginal as far as grazing land would be judged. Cottonwood trees grow in the bottom of the Creek Valley in several places, but not within two miles of highway 33. West of the Ranch buildings about five miles, high chaparral covered hills rise up to a good height and many rocky masses could be made out about the summit of these peaks.

I met Mrs. Marvin Jones at the Christie Ranch buildings. Her husband, Marvin Jones, has worked on this ranch for about three years and was here when Kenneth Mather was an employee here last spring. Mr. Jones was working at a feed-lot in the valley today and would not return until this evening. Mrs. Jones had never heard of a condor before and had trouble remembering the name having to re-ask me several times. She said that Mr. Lyle Christie, who owns the property that comprises some 50 thousand, plus, acres, lives here at the ranch part of the time, when not here he resides in San Francisco. According to Mrs. Jones, Mr. Christie has been coming to the ranch for many years and has keen interest in all wildlife. He allows no one to shoot any of the crows, doves, rabbits, on the ranch, nor does he allow the government trapper to come in and trap coyotes. She said that he does-
California Condor    Eden McMillan    10 June 1964

Poison squirrels once in several years.

I was given the San Francisco address of Mr. Lyle Christie by Mrs. Jones who thought Mr. Christie would be most happy to help me out in any way he could. She also said she would have Mr. Jones write me should he have seen any Condor on the Cantua Ranch. I left my address and phone number with Mrs. Jones with instruction for them to phone me collect should anyone see Condor in the future, or particularly find a dead or wounded Condor.

I drove down Cantua Creek at 1:30 P.M. to highway 33. A Golden Eagle was observed crossing the highway in front of me soon after highway enters the foothills, going south from Cantua Creek. I did not see it well enough to see if it was an adult or immature.

A dead Turkey Buzzard Carcass was found lying on north side of highway 33, about ten feet from the edge of pavement, 1/2 mile northwest of Avenal, Fresno County, Calif. Evidently this buzzard had been shot, for a buzzard feather lay near the partly eaten body of a kit fox about 100 feet north of where the buzzard carcass lay. Automobile tracks indicated that someone had pulled to the side of the highway, while the buzzard was feeding on the kit fox and shot the buzzard. The person then walked to the buzzard and dragged it back to the roadside, evidently to admire the good shot, and there the buzzard carcass was left. This appeared to
have happened about three or four weeks before. I photographed the Buzzard carcass.

Driving from Arnel to Cholame Valley I entered Cholame Rancho property at East side of Cholame flats and drove to Rock Coral Spring. One cow carcass had been added to the list of others that had fallen killed in Rock Coral mud-hole since I was here last, but amazingly most of the cattle that frequent this spring area are still on their feet. One elderly cow, that was lying down when drove up had difficulty getting to her feet, but once up, ambled away at a wobbly trot. It appears that those cattle that were genetically weak from one cause or another fell by the wayside as soon as the going got tough. Those that survived that first elimination are very difficult to kill off.

Driving towards Cholame Rancho from Rock Coral Canyon, young calves were photographed that were near the roadside in the last stages of starvation. Strange to say these little beasts, even though too weak to pay any attention to the car, would get up and wobble away when & would get out of the pickup with camera to photograph them. I did not have the heart to follow them closely for fear they would fall and die.

A Coyote ran across the roadway in front of me as I drove across Cholame Creek where the road crosses near the alfalfa camp of C. This Coyote was heading in the direction of...
California Conover  Eben Driggers  10 June 1964

Cholame Ranch headquarters. When I last saw it, A lone Buzzard was circling one mile south of Cholame Ranch buildings at 9:00 AM. One half mile SE of the foot of Hay Grade I saw the bodies of two deer lying close by the roadside. One deer had been beheaded. The other had been slashed open in the throat. The bones of both were unravelled. One carcass, the one that had its head on, was intact. The other, headless, had three skinned out deer legs, lying near it while it had, at least two of its own legs intact. It appeared to be that someone had dumped these carcasses here and the additional legs along with them. Although flies were blowing these deer carcasses already nothing had eaten on them. Probably too near the roadway and too much to eat elsewhere.

Home at 5:30 PM. Sky cleared some in evening and it was warmer.

I might add that Mrs. Marvin Jones went to great detail today to tell me how much trouble they are put to in policing hunters the first weekend of Deer season on the Christie Ranch property. It seems she and her husband drive up on the high mountain west of the Ranch house the morning of the first week of Deer season well before daylight. She said that they can look out sea lights all over the country, converging onto their property, the hunt deer. She said the hunters are impossible to keep out so the best they can do is to watch for fires the hunters might set. Mrs. Jones said these hunters shoot everything that moves.
About 2:00 P.M. today, Lowell Adams, who heads the Rodent and Predator Control for the San Luis Obispo County Agricultural Commissioners Office, stopped by to visit at my home. He told me of an instance, not long ago, when agricultural Commissioner Kalar of S.L.O. County phoned him (Mr. Adams) to come to San Luis Obispo in a hurry one morning. It seems that Riler Patterson, who is in charge of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office in Bakersfield, and who is in charge of Predator Control for most of the B.L.M. and Forest Service lands in Central California, had asked Commissioner Kalar for a meeting. At this meeting, Mr. Adams told me, Mr. Patterson did everything he could to set Commissioner Kalar to let his office take over Predator Control in San Luis Obispo County. Mr. Adams said he had to admit that Mr. Kalar presented a strong front to Mr. Patterson in denying him the Predator Control job in S.L.O. County. Adams said that Mr. Kalar told Mr. Patterson that he thought his office was doing a good job of Predator Control in S.L.O. County and not overdoing it. Lowell Adams claims that he and Commissioner Kalar are only interested in controlling predators and not decimating them. He seems to consider the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as dedicated to kill off all predators.
California Condor

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We loaded the carcass of a young doe deer that had died near our water tank last night with its head caught in the hog-wire fence, into his pickup and left for Big Pine Mountain. In the Carrzita Plains, near Washburn Ranch, at roadside, we found the dried carcass and feathers of a small hawk that we felt had been shot some distance out in the field and then carried to the roadside where it had been left. This idea was gained from our finding a pile of this bird's feathers some distance from the road. We left the hawk remains there.

A prairie falcon with one wing damaged to the point of preventing this bird from flying was found in the roadway 1/2 mile south of the Whimn Ranch road on Carrzita Plains. A bullet or some sharp object had caused an abrasion on the upper part of the left wing that seemed to have left the muscles damaged. This bird was not more than a month from the nest. It was placed in a cardboard box and taken along in the hopes that we would be able to contact some fish and game warden who would see that it was cared for until able to fend for itself again.

Stopping at Cuyama Ranger Station of U.S. Forest Service, we obtained the needed keys to go into Big Pine Mountain. Mr. Ed Morse was not in the office having gone, we were told, to Sierra Madre Ridge with a Richfield Oil Company group, to work on a water development. Stopping at the Standard Service Station in Cuyama (old) I ran across up his pick up while here the Station attendant told us that lamai...
Johnson, of Coyama Valley, had stopped by this afternoon for gas at this station and said he was on his way, with his lion hounds, up to Sierra Nevada Ridge.

The gentleman who attended us at this station also informed us that a riding club had been recently formed in the Coyama Valley, the man that owns Stutz Station, near Kentucypin, being the New President of this recently formed group whose membership numbers nearly 90.

As we were at this service station two young fellows, armed with bows and arrows, walked from behind the service station across the highway, crawled through the barbed-wire fence that enclosed the private land on the north or opposite side of the highway, and proceeded to hunt rabbits. I saw them discharge arrows on two occasions at something in the tall brush that is scattered about the flat in which they hunted. The station attendant waiting on us mentioned how proficient these boys were becoming with these bows and arrows, they being able to kill lots of rabbits with their weapons.

Arriving at the Reyes Ranch in Santa Barbara Canyon about 10:15 a.m., we stopped by to chat with Mrs. Gertrude Reyes in order to let her know who was passing through the locked gate in front of her ranch home, and to inquire if she had seen any Condor of late. She said not that they had not seen Condor for some time, more than a
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Year she thought, Mrs. Reyes informed us that she had been thinking about Condor and the predicament they are in due to the shortage of food. She said that few cattle die any more due to the modern methods of range, and livestock management, that there are no more deer for Condor to feed on and that this shortage of food is causing a decline in Condor numbers. She thought that were the Audubon Societies or Conservation Organizations to donate money to buy up sick and infirm cattle like the three she had taken to the Animal Sale last week, one old lump-jawed cow that was beyond help, one bull that had gone bad and was not doing well and another bull that had broken down, these such animals, if money were available from conservation groups, could be purchased from Mrs. Reyes, and her partner, for the same price of prevailing value and made available to Condor as food. I told her that some talk of feeding Condor was afoot and that when all the facts were in we would evaluate them and make recommendations that would be in the best interests of Condor preservation. I described to Mrs. Reyes how cattle had died all fall and winter on the San Emidio Rancho where Condor were seen to pass over many of these carcasses only to continue on as though disinterested in anything but the most delectable items to them. Mrs. Reyes continued to mention the lack of food for Condor and stated that she and her partner had discussed this matter as a way of saving Condor. No doubt they also discussed —
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the possibility of disposing of their, practically worthless, livestock that were sick or infirm, at a good price to themselves.

Leaving the Reyes Ranch we drove on towards Big Pine lookout after Jan had photographed sign on locked gate in Santa Barbara Canyon stating that all vehicular traffic past this point is restricted to those having business beyond. We then drove up grade out of Santa Barbara Canyon near the top of where we met Freddie Reyes who tends cattle for his mother. He and a hired hand were driving a small herd of cows and calves up the grade towards Santa Barbara Potters. Freddie Reyes, being raised in this particular area and spending much time on the Sierra Madre Ridge, should know Condor when he sees them. He told us he had not seen a Condor for more than a year.

Driving to the top of the Ridge and turning south, we stopped at the barrier that is supposed to restrict unauthorized automotive traffic along this road. The Cable had not been put up since we were here last, although we were given a key to unlock the lock that had been shot open at this barrier sometime before we were here formally. I think Jan had turned this lock into the office at New Cuyama. The Cable lay alongside the roadway undisturbed these last several weeks. While watching for Condor at this barrier we saw a yearling deer slipping through the brush above, and about 200 yards southwest of where we stood. Two more nice big bucks were seen standing in the road about one mile on past this barrier. These two bucks stood and —
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watched us for several minutes before slowly slipping out of sight into the dense chaparral above the road. One of these bucks had only one quite large forked antler on one side - I took several photographs of them. Another small buck deer was frightened from the road as we drove among the timber on the north side of Big Pine Mountain.

We carried the deer carcass we had taken from home to the top of the saddle west of where the road forks where the Big Pine lookout takes off from Big Pine - steering madre ridge road and overlooks Bluff camp below. The deer carcass was opened at the launch and ham, some meat being taken for the falcon. We then drove on to Big Pine lookout.

Since we were here last on horseback, the lookout building had been boarded up and painted white. The cabin near the lookout had also been repaired and things generally looked much more respectable now. Having arrived at the lookout at about 11:00 A.M. we inspected the area before eating lunch at 12:00 Noon.

At 1:00 P.M. Two Automobiles drove up to the Big Pine lookout one of which was a U.S. Government Car in which Las Padas supervisor William Hansen rode along with several other men. A small pickup followed the Government Car. Three men were in this pickup. I remained for some minutes at a lookout station I had taken up to watch for condor before going up to the lookout building where-
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Mr. Hansen was standing on the balcony of the lookout tower. The others were still at the base of the tower excepting Phil Orr of the Museum of Natural History in Santa Barbara and Mr. Mansfield of the Forest Service who were down near where the cars were parked, talking with Jan. As I walked up, Mr. Hansen greeted me with a "hello!" He was in camping clothes and was wearing a hat and I did not recognize him until after he had spoken to me. I returned the greeting while continuing on under the base of the tower to get relief from the sun that was shining down quite warm. One of the men that came with Mr. Hansen asked what I was doing. I explained that presently I was looking for some shade to get out of the warm sun.

As I sat under the lookout tower, in the shade, talking to different members of the party who just arrived with supervisor Hansen, I could not help but overhear him lecturing members of his party who remained down on the ground below, regarding the virtues of the hemlock program that was being promoted along the Sierra Madre Ridge near Monterey and Salisbury and Santa Barbara Potreros and the values of widening and deepening the Sierra Madre Ridge Road. There was no doubt about it. Supervisor Hansen had these people here for the purpose of gaining support for these two projects.

Phil Orr soon came up from where the cars were parked and greeted me as a long lost friend. Mr. Orr looked a bit on the worn side by having not shaved and his shirt -
opened at the front to his nasal, showed that the
warm weather of the interior was having its effects on Phil
who had been spending much time of late years doing archaeological
work on the Islands off the Santa Barbara coast. Phil Orr
told me of finding the remains of a new species of
Condor in the digging he is presently working on on
one of the Coastal Islands. This bird is much larger than
the Rancho La Brea Condor, he said. Mr. Orr said the group
that he was with, and headed by Supervisor Hansen, were all
camped two hours away near the foot of the Santa Ynez
mountains. I mentioned to Mr. Orr that by the time they got back
all the whiskey, To this Mr. Orr mentioned his fact that
there would be no whiskey left when they returned for he
said they had left two others in camp who probably had
all the whiskey consumed by then.

Supervisor Hansen seemed to have considerable difficulty
in getting more than two of his group to climb the steps up
to the balcony from where he was pointing out the Rattles
area on ridge between Santa Barbara and Salisbury Petersen, as
well as the area on Sierra Madre ridge where a gap had to
be filled in whereby automobile traffic could come on through to
Montgomery Petersen with no trouble. As it is now, only Jeeps
and Trail-Jeeps can make this trip while, of course, four-
wheelers included. They seemed more concerned with
seeking the shade under the lookout and the halls of Condor.
Supervisor Hansen soon came down from the balcony and -
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Joined us in discussing Condor. He said he had told his group that we were studying Condor. Mr. Hansen now answered most of the questions concerning Condor. He thought 4 or 5 o'clock would be the best time to see them in the Big Pine area. Mr. Mansfield, who is the oldest employee of the U.S. Forest Service in the Las Padres Nat. Forest and who packed Kodak into the mission pines basin when he was doing the Condor study in the early 1940s, stated that the woman who used to man this lookout then would go out on the balcony and wave their arm to attract the Condor to come in and circle close over the lookout. Supervisor Hansen and his group left after about thirty minutes at the lookout. They were returning to their camp on the Santa Ynez River. Among his group was one from the F.B.I. office in Santa Barbara, a man from the District Attorney's Office in Santa Barbara, a man from the Highway Patrol of Calif., from the Santa Barbara Office, Phil off from the Museum on Nat. Hist. in Santa Barbara. Mr. Mansfield and a Mr. Rutherford from Santa Barbara. I understood that they all had camped last night at the forest service camp somewhere in the Santa Ynez River above Gibraltar Dam. All shook hands and departed from us with cordial feelings.

We continued to watch for Condor from the Big Pine lookout area, At 2:40 P.M. a Peregrine Falcon was observed circling about the cliff face that stands below the Big Pine lookout about five hundred yards. Soon another Peregrine came out from under the overhang of this cliff and circled the area screaming. Both Peregrines remained about this cliff and continued to scream throughout the afternoon. We left the area at 6:00 P.M.
having seen only one Red-Tailed Hawk, one Raven and the two Peregrine falcons.

At the saddle where the deer carcass lay no sign of any feeding was evidenced as we inspected it driving towards the Alamar Guard Station where we intended to camp for the night. Stopping on the west face of Big Pine mountain near where the old road at one time went down to Big Pine Camp, we saw an adult Golden Eagle pass above the pine forest and sail out above the canyon heading in a northwest direction. The wind blew a gale as we arrived at 7:30 PM.
California Condor.  Eben McDillan.  

14 June 1964

The sun rose clear. A strong west wind blew and fog was in the lower reaches of the central valleys. Smog also cast a pall over the lower foothills and soon raised to extend a broad across the lower Coyama Valley, and then into the San Joaquin Valley. It was cool.

We drove towards Big Pina Lookout at 7:15 a.m. stopping to find a fox had eaten on the entrails of the deer carcasses, as well as pulling some meat from the haunch, during the night. The Peregrine falcons were not calling when we arrived at the lookout, but when I ran a rock off the top of the promontory on which the lookout is located, the Peregrines came out and set up a chatter with their screams. One Raven was observed coming up the ridge to the north of the lookout at 11:30 a.m. and returned over the same route at 11:45 a.m. A Sparrowhawk was observed flying above the conifer trees.

At 12:30 p.m. John Minton a 16 year old lad came to the Big Pina Lookout on his Honda Motorcycle. He said his home was in Santa Barbara and that he attended high school there being graduated into his junior year at the end of this last school session. He appeared very proud of the motorcycle he rode stating that it was a Honda 250 with 25 horse power engine that cost him $800.00. The insurance and license cost $61 dollars. The license number of this vehicle was 288642. John Minton said he formally owned a smaller Honda motorcycle, but that up in this back country it did not have the power so he saved up money for a long time and paid cash for this larger machine, he now owns outright.
John Minton said he first became acquainted with the Sisquoc, and Big Pine Mountain area as a Boy Scout. He still belongs to the Boy Scouts in Santa Barbara, but no longer goes on hikes. Once he became owner of a motorcycle he no longer cares to do any hiking. He mentioned having come into the Sisquoc River area from Dave Brown Camp with a group of Boy scouts several years ago and on a four day hike had climbed the trail above Sisquoc Falls and passed by the Condor Refuge. Minton knew of Condor, but had never seen one. He said they are light red in color with orange head. He said about 8 pair still remain in about the Sisquoc and also in a refuge in the Sespe area. He said there was also a few up in Utah.

John Minton told us he came up via A50 camp where he drove his motorcycle past a locked gate. In getting by this locked gate he stated using a narrow gate at the side of the locked gate near which a sign stated that no motorized vehicles were allowed beyond this point. He mentioned having met 6 other trail bikes returning from Bluff Camp where they had spent the night. They were all going down towards Cachuma Dam. He said he expected to find forest service personnel on Big Pine Mountain and at the lookout for he thought the lookout would be activated by now. He gave not the slightest indication that his driving past the wilderness area signs that forbid the use of any motorized vehicles, unless authorized by the visitor service, on such roads as that going out to Big Pine Lookout. Of course it would appear that Supervisor Hansen could have been breaking this rule as were Ian and I also.
John Minton said there was considerable concern among the owners and sellers of motorcycles and trail bikes that they were going to lose the privilege of riding on the trails and roads throughout the forest areas. He stated that a meeting was to be called in Santa Barbara on the 18th of June, where everyone interested in riding motorcycles and trail bikes over the trails of the U.S. Forest Service lands could plot a defense against this movement to restrict their use of the areas mentioned.

But Minton himself thought it advisable to restrict the smaller Trail bikes and Toto-Jokes from the forest trails for he said they do turn up the trails considerably. He does not think the larger motorcycles are as damaging to trails as are the lighter machines. He also thought horses were worse than motorized cycles on the trails. He said horses won't fall over to the side and let you pass but walk right on past one and crowd him off the trails.

Mr. Minton said he owns a rifle and has hunted deer the last two seasons but has not shot at a buck deer yet. He expressed a great desire to kill a deer. He has not even seen a doe deer while hunting.

When asked if he ever sets any shots at Eagles or other large birds he stated he would not shoot an Eagle. He thought them to do no harm and would do him no good were he to shoot one therefore he would not shoot one. He thought there was some law protecting Eagles but he had never found out for sure just what it was. Minton said he loves the outdoors and thought he might move to the mountains and become a mountaineer. Said he liked to be by himself.
California Condor                Eben McMillan                14 June 1964

Mr. John J. Rinaldi, with our party, salutations and several photographs taken of him and his motorcycle, took his leave of the Big Pine lookout at 11:20 a.m. After walking to the lookout tower in quest of water at finding no water present here, without even glancing but over the scarp to see a view of his surroundings, took off in a cloud of dust for Oso and the Santa Ynez River.

Ian and I watched the area for the remainder of the afternoon. We drove to Alamar Saddle and camped for the night at 6:30 p.m. The day remained clear but the wind went down in mid-morning and it became quite warm by afternoon. It was warm when we retired to our tents at 8:00 p.m.

List of the birds observed on Big Pine is as follows.

Golden Eagle-adult one
Red-Tailed Hawk-adult two
Raven
Sparrow Hawk-two
Steller's Jay—many
Calif. Scrub Jay—many
White-headed Woodpecker-one
Downy Woodpecker—one
Red-shafted Flicker
White-throated Swift—many
Purple Martin—many
Violet Green Swallow—many
Cliff Swallow—few
Sparrow, common
Chipping Sparrow—common
Black-chinned Sparrow—common
Rufus-sided Towhee—common
Brown Towhee—many
Common Gold Finch—few
House Finch—common
Purple Finch—common
Luna Tit—common
Black-headed Grosbeak—common
Western Tanager—common
Oregon Junco—common
Junco—few
Golden-crowned Kinglet—two
California Condor  
Eben McNutt

--- Black Throated Grey Warbler --- many --- Bewick Wren.  
many --- Rock Wren. --- Canyon Wren. Two --- Bullock’s Oriole.  
several --- and several hummingbirds of unknown species.
California Condor   Eben McDonald   15 June 1964

We were up at sunrise. The day broke clear and warm with a gentle west wind blowing. A heavy fog filled all the fingers of the lower sisquoc and Santa Ynez river drainages up to about 500 feet elevation. The air was remarkably clear. We drove to northwest corner of Big pine mountain where a felled tree on the road to Bluff Camp I hiked up the roadway that follows the northwest corner ridge of Big pine mountain to the summit. Fresh tracks of a Bobcat and bear cub were following the same roadway I was traveling, after I had gotten near the summit. A pair of Pinyon Nuthatch were observed carrying nesting material into a very small hole in a dead pine stump. I photographed Sierra Madre ridge - sisquoc river basin and San Rafael mountain as well as the Santa Ynez river basin that was pretty. Well foggied in.

Meeting Jan at designated place we drove to Santa Barbara Potrero. Jan said that a Bear had dragged the deer carcass away from where we had left in sometime during the night. We inspected the Re-vegetation operation that the forest service is presently promoting mostly of which lies between Santa Barbara and Salisbury Potreros. There seems to be evidence that the forest service is setting themselves Into a bad situation here. What acreage there is that was planted and cultivated this last year or even last year, is doing poorly and the areas that were planted first are dying up. Even though no cattle have ever been allowed to graze on these areas that were cleared off brush-
planted and cultivated; yes and sprayed—yes sprayed—and
probably fertilized in some places, is not producing the
forage that could be grown on land that cultivated
and sown to Oats, wheat, or barley. There seems to be areas
here that may support reasonable stands of grass in
the future but most of these areas that have been cleared
of brush, only grow brush by virtue of the fact that
brush was the only thing this type of Poor rocky soil would
produce and sustain. One can see the line between the
brush and the grassland throughout this area is associated
with the tilted formation of the land. Undoubtedly the
areas where grass now grows were once level deep soils,
and in the process of being tilted up on edge left strips
of this soil exposed, while in between, the bedrock pushed
up to the surface and remains exposed. These areas of
bedrock are where the brush now grows. To assume that
they can be changed into productive soils comparable
to that where the grass now grows seems poor thinking and
planning to me. At least one thing is certain, that being the
price of establishing this vegetative cover on what was
once brushland is going to be so expensive that cows
grazing one to the acre throughout the permitted season
would never make this thing a paying proposition. It is
beginning to look as though this is a plaything for the
Forest Service to keep busy all between fire seasons.
Were it not so expensive a proposition and so
vulnerable to the development of Payola Propositions—
California Condor  Eben McMillan  15 June 1964

it might be justified, but just how there seems to be too many outsiders implicated in an economic way, as well as the money that is being spent is simply not justified. My thinking along this line is being prompted by the activity this development creates along the area here where Condors are known to fly and probably fed. This whole ridge should be kept in as primitive state as is possible and all human activities held to a minimum if the welfare of Condors is to have first priority. While the Productivity of these Potteries will also be protected by a minimum of roadways and development. This matter should be gone into further and a team of unbiased taxpayers be allowed free access to the records of this whole operation. I can see why Mrs. Reyes would be interested in seeing all this development for at 60 $ per head per month, and a head means one cow and a 300 lb. calf, she can’t loose while the development will enhance the price of her land that lies contiguous to the Forest Service development for with her hold on these lands whereby contiguous land owners get preferential treatment in leasing these lands it is much like having the Government develop your own land for you. The value of her land is predicated on the amount or size of permits she has to pasture cattle on the Forest Lands.

We drove out as far as the historic Past-Montgomery Potteries. The late rains brought on a good grass season here and the Cows, with big 300 pound Calves at their sides, are —
California Condor

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in very good condition. We had a flat tire on Jan's pickup (sharp rock puncture) as we returned down the hill to Montgomery Hot Creek, while fixing it we had lunch. Following lunch we drove through Montgomery Hot Creek, 50 plus Ravens were congregated on a hillside feeding on the myriads of grasshoppers that are just now hatching out. Several Turkey Vultures were also seen. We drove down Santa Barbara Canyon stopping at a creek crossing above Reyes ranch where we cleaned up somewhat. Reaching the mouth of Santa Barbara Canyon we turned north on an olded road and proceeded along the western side of the Cuyama valley. As we approached a small gully that crosses this road about three and one-half miles south of how Cuyama, several Ravens and an adult Condor flew up from the left side of highway from the bottom of this gully. There has been a fill built up across the bottom of this gully to accommodate a Culvert over which the road passes. The Condor and Ravens had been feeding on a dead Jackrabbit that lay about 20 feet east of the south end of this Culvert and down below this fill that at this point was about 40 inches high. A barbed wire fence ran parallel to this road and was about 8 feet to the south of this fill or edge of the fill. This caused a depression in which the Condor and Ravens were standing as we approached, this depression preventing us from seeing Condor or Ravens, until we were nearly on them. The Ravens flew up out of the depression and the Condor followed only...
after we approached within 200 feet of them. The condor, an adult bird, needed no run to take off but came up out of this depression on the wings, flapping vigorously, crossed the roadway in front of us Pulling into the wind. After getting out about two hundred yards northward the condor commenced to circle and drift eastward with the wind, not seeming to be able to attain height easily. It continued to drift eastward about two miles where it hit all thermals that enabled it to mount up quite quickly to a good height. From this height this condor appeared to move out towards the east some distance where it again circled and towered upwards very rapidly until it finally went into a double dip and then aisted glide heading southwest. This condor was under observation for a period of 25 minutes. It was flushed from the dead Jackrabbit at 1:25 P.M. and was lost in the scope due to the great distance at 1:50 P.M. When last seen this condor was heading southeast from a point about over Big Pine mountain.

We drove back and photographed the general locality where the condor flew up from. My photo will have Mr. Aidos and Mr. Able in background. I also photographed the Rabbit carcass on which the condor had fed as well as one color shot with Mr. holding up the Jackrabbit Carccass.

Lee then drove to New Aiyunia where we stopped at the office of the U.S. Forest Service. Alwiner Morse was in. Both Mr. and I were admiring a photo of a condor that had been taken on Sierra Madre -
California Condor  Eben McDillan  15 June 1964

ridge on May 9, 1964 by Don Porter during one of the many
excursion trips that the forest service has promoted atop Sierra
Madre ridge to see their story of the need for a wider and
smoother road along the top of this ridge so that the public can
use this roadway as a recreational driveway. The condor
photo was taken on an adult bird on the living near the
head of Lion Canyon. Mr. Morse informed us that the photo
was taken with a regular 35mm camera with conventional
lens. He said he was with the

Mr. Porter was with him. They had just met two trail-
riders that were traveling the Sierra mountain range road.
Ranger Morse said he saw two birds that he took to
be condors but on second thought they looked too
small to be condors. Soon these two condors raised up


whereby Ranger Morse could make out the white tailing
under their wings. He then knew they were condors. The two
fellows on trail-bikes, upon hearing Ranger Morse say
the two birds were condors immediately shut their motors
off so as not to frighten the condor. The Morse told
them that was not necessary for he advised them that
condor will pay little attention to noise or movement.
No sooner did he say this than both condors came
over and circled directly above Morse and his
party at a height of about 20 feet. Morse told us that
the condors circled them about 6 or 7 times before
they flew away. There is no doubt that the condor,
one of which Ranger Morse said kept higher than—
California Condor

Eben McMillan
18 June 1904

He other must have been within 100 feet of the yellow, wooden, who took the picture, for even with a 6 in. lens and enlarging in printing it was still a good print.

In describing the birds to us, Ranger Ed. Morse said they could not have had wingspans of over six feet. He said they were not big birds. The adult bird in the photograph he was discussing, Morse said, could not have had a wingspan of over six feet. This being the case, he established both birds to be immature. The only strange aspect of these two condor was that their heads were red and the head of a young bird was supposed to be orange. It was here that Ranger Morse stated that this proved that the Doctor (meaning Dr. Alden McMillan) was wrong in correcting him about small condor for these were small condor and not in any way large like the 10 foot span of the wings of large condor he has seen. Mr. Morse stated that he was well prepared to estimate distances in the air by working with timber, having to estimate the height of trees, this, he thought, has prepared him whereby no one could tell him about distance estimates. "This is one situation where the Doctor was out of place. This is a case where the Doctor was the layman and I was the expert," stated Ranger Morse. Morse thought this was a case where Dr. McMillan talked out of turn. "It just goes to show that the experts like the Doctor can be wrong," he said.

In the process of our being enlightened by Ranger—
Ed. Morse in the field out of estimating the living span of Condor in flight, a man who had been standing by us waiting for a weather forecast, from Ranger Morse’s secretary, interrupted our conversation by saying that he knew Condor well. That he had seen them in Years past in the Hells Half Acre area east of Figueroa mountain. He said Condor used to come close to him in that area. Interested, I immediately asked him where this Hells Half Acre area was. He informed me it was south and west of the Hurricane deck. The conversation then turned to how easy it would be to shoot these Condor that come so close such as the one photographed with the bfer. wings spread. At this the man who had formally interrupted us chimed in with the statement that he saw a Condor hanging on a fence here in the By run valley about four years ago. He said he thought part of that Condor would still be there. It would only take about 10 or 12 minutes to go out and look he said. I immediately had him in Dan’s pickup and we were heading south on a dirt road in quest of these Condor remains that were for years old. We drove east on the highway about 1/4 mile from the US Forest Service station then turned south one mile, then west 1/4 mile where a two-barbed wire fence enclosed a 1/4 section field. Mr. El Martin, a hunter found out the name of my guide during our ride this far explained that it was right on this fence that runs east and west the mile south of New Cajumara that the Condor Carcass was
California Condor

Eben McGinnis

15 June 1969

hanging when a Deputy Sheriff named Shannacker, who was stationed at the Guayama Sub-station of the Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office, got him to go and identify this bird as a complaint had been registered at the Sheriff Sub-station that someone had shot a Condor and Deputy Sheriff Shannacker wanted the bird identified before he made an investigation. Thus Mr. Martin was asked on to identify this bird. Mr. Martin told me that the bird was hanging by its neck from the top wire of this fence. The Carcass had hung there sometime when he was called to make the identification as when he saw it, it was dried out and dehydrated. He thought it had been hanging at this spot at least 8 months when he saw it. Mr. Martin identified this bird as a Condor for Deputy Sheriff Shannacker on the strength of its meat hook, or long center toe. He said he had always known this long toe as a meat hook. He also used the long primary feathers as an identification feature. Russian thistle bushes were piled against this fence in places, we would stop and kick away these bushes to inspect the ground under them. After hunting along this fence for about 200 Yards we came upon the Carcass of the Condor. It lay about two feet north of the fence that incloses the field on the north side of the little used dirt road that runs East and West one mile South of the town of new Guayama. It had been burned over at least once. I suppose farmers burning Russian Thistle than collect along these fences. The feathers were burned down to stubs, all had been partially -
California. Condo - Eben McMillan. 15 June 1984

Covered with dirt, probably from the accumulation of drifting sands that are held by the bushes that collect along these fences as strong winds at this time of year blow dust storms across this valley. Most of this dust comes from the trodden fields where sheep have pastured. The condor carcass had been in the position in which we found it for probably a year or more, as grass had grown last spring, at least, from under it. The larger bones and the stub ends of the wing feathers protruded out through the dirt that covered most of the carcass. The feet were exposed and in a remarkably good state of preservation after having been there so long. The head and neck were gone. A lump of greenish material that I took to be part of the stomach contents of this bird when it died, was lying under the body. I photographed this carcass after it had been pulled from under the covering of dirt in which it was imbedded. I also photographed Mr. Al Martin with the bird remains and the town of New Cuyama one mile away in the background.

In the process of gathering up the remains of this condor, Mr. Martin related to me what he knew of the history of this bird following its death. It went like this: Mr. Martin is employed by the County of Santa Barbara fire department, and has been stationed at the New Cuyama fire station for more than five years. He is 51 years old today and was born in the Santa Ynez area. Not far from what is now Cachuma Dam, he knows condor well from having seen them, as a youth, in the Santa Ynez and Sisquoc River drainages. The
California Condor  Ebba McMillan  15 June 1964

further west he remembers of ever seeing a Condor over the village of Santa Ynez. He does not remember ever seeing a dead condor other than the one we were now investigating. He thinks condors are nearly as plentiful now as was the case when he was a boy about 1920-1930. About four years ago Deputy Sheriff Shanniclear (Mr. Martin did not know if this was the proper spelling of this name) who was then stationed at the New Guyama office of the Santa Barbara Sheriff’s office came to Mr. Martin and asked that he accompany the deputy to a fence line one mile south of New Guyama where the deputy wanted Martin to identify the carcass of a bird that hung on this fence and had been brought to the deputy’s attention by someone who had made a complaint that someone was shooting condors. Therefore, the deputy not knowing what condors looked like wanted Mr. Martin to accompany him to the scene and identify the bird. This Mr. Martin did by the process of recognizing what he described as the meat hook. Actually this meat hook that Martin referred to was the long middle toe on the foot of condor. Mr. Martin asked me if it were not this long toe, or meat hook, that condors used to open their food animals.

It is strange that Martin would know of this long toe of condor without ever having seen a dead one before. Perhaps he may have picked this up from others. At least it was effective, for he identified this bird properly. Another strange statement that Mr. Martin made was that the effect that he thought the carcass, when he identified it, belonged to a young condor as the feathers had not been cut in the head yet. This would be evidence of -
California Condor    Eben McMillan    15 June 1964

Mr. Martin's limited knowledge of Condors, and would lead me to believe that this bird may have been an immature with dark head and the furry growing that accompanies the neck and head of young birds, thereby making him think that small feathers were coming out. Martin said that when he was taken to identify this bird that it was hanging from the top wire of the fence that is about 40 inches above the ground. The carcass had been fastened to this top wire by someone who had tied a length of baling wire about the bird's neck and then fastened it to the wire. Evidently this was done to display the bird by someone. Perhaps even the person that shot it. Mr. Martin said it was thought at that time that some shepharker had shot this Condor. He also said it had been hanging on the fence for many months when he was called to identify it. The carcass being very dry and dehydrated with no moist matter left in it.

To the best of Al Martin's recollection, it was about four years ago that he was called to identify this Condor. He said that a Mr. Rex Loomis, who is now Captain at the Goleta fire Station of Santa Barbara County was stationed at the New Guiana Station of S.B. County Fire Department and at the time he went to inspect the Condor for deputy shamancker, and upon hearing of the Condor on the fence, immediately went to the place and photographed the Condor with a Polaroid Camera. Martin said the picture turned out real good and he felt Kent will still have it in his possession.

I drove Al Martin back to the US Forest Service...
California Condor  
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Station in New Cuyama, measuring the distance on the way. It turned out to be one mile from the Forest Service Station to the place where the Condor remains were found.

Ranger Morse admitted knowledge of the Condor Carcass that we had taken possession of today. He thought it was about four years ago that the Condor, on the fence, was brought to his attention.

Ranger Morse was reviewing Jan on his thinking regarding the need to construct the Sierra Madre Ridge Road when I returned. After discussing the Condor Carcass Incident momentarily they returned to the Sierra Madre Ridge Road Subject. Mr. Morse said that on Easter Week Weekend Thirty People were Camped at South Fork Guard Station. These People had Hiked in from some distance. The Hike in taking four or five hours and the Hike Out taking the same. This only allowed these People a short time to fish over the weekend, and concentrated a great number of People at one time in one place. "Now when you have 30 People in one Campground like South Fork Guard Station You don't have a Wilderness," Ranger Morse said.

"Now when this road is built people can drive within an hour of the Sisquoc River, hike down and Camp, fish all day, then fish the next day and return to their Car in the evening and drive home," Mr. Morse stated. This situation, he thought, would scatter the People so that at no time would there be 30 Campers at one place on a weekend. "Of course," he said, "the first year or two there would be thousands until the law wore off then things would settle down to a Wilderness Situation".
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We drove home by 5:30 p.m. Before we visited the Forest Service station and Ranger Ed Morse today we visited a Shepherds Camp. He was not present. We took photographs of the sheep bedded down and the dust whipping up in clouds that blew along the ground towards the East.

We arrived home, via McKittrick, at 5:30 p.m. Gladys McMillian informed me that at 7:00 p.m. on June 13, 1964 three condors passed low over the Nature Hill, that is about 1/2 mile northeast of my house. These condors were heading northwest and did not break from their flex glide as they continued onward.

It was 3:00 p.m. when I returned to the Forest Service Ranger Station in New Amana with the carcass of the Condor.
I drove to Cholame flats at 2:00 P.M. Cattle are dying at an accelerated rate now. One soon loses track of the number of dead cows and calves within sight of the road. 22 cows lay bleaching in one sand pit at the foot of Kears grade where they had been dropped after dying. At the water near where the Kears grade road turns off the main Cholame Valley road, Newly dead critters were on the field grounds.

Ten Turkey vultures were circling above the area from Gene Rumbos to Kears Grade. At one time four Turkey vultures were seen feeding on the remains of Poisoned Ground Squirrels near the wooden gate going into Rumbos Property and three more were at the same time feeding on squirrel remains on a hillside north of Kears grade. This area has been poisoned with Compound 1080 within the last ten days. These vultures seem to prefer squirrel remains even though a plethora of livestock lay dead in every stage of putrefaction. Perhaps the carrion eaters get tired of a steady diet on one type of food.

A young Golden Eagle was sailing above the area to the east of Kears Grade. This bird was just long out of the nest and at this stage use their twists a great deal more than do adults thereby giving these young Eagles the appearance of a condor in flight. At a distance whereby the white Tail, or wing spots, could not be seen, one could misidentify these birds as condor.

I left Cholame Flats at 4:30 P.M. No condor.
Mrs. Dorothy Frey of Shandon, in talking to me on the phone today informed me that about a month ago the county squirrel poisoning crew treated the Shandon Flats with 1080 compound poison. She said that no sooner had this poison been put out near their place than eight Turkey vultures came to feed on the squirrels that died above ground from the poison. She said that she and her husband went out to see what the vultures were eating. They found a dead squirrel carcass that the vultures had opened and eaten some from. On another occasion they saw a turkey vulture that did not act normally. They drove out in their pickup truck to investigate this bird, but it flew when they came within a short distance of it and flew away.

Mrs. Jim E. Rutledge of Porterville wrote me a letter dated June 17, 1964 stating that her husband, who oversees the distribution of compound 1080 poison in squirrel poisoning campaigns in the foothill area of Fresno County, informing me that her husband wished me to know that he had observed a Condor on June 16, 1964, five miles east of Fountain Springs, Fresno County, California.
cool, clear, with a gentle west wind blowing as a
left for Carissa plains at 10:10 AM. Checking with shear
headers at Lake Ranch, I found one had just moved camp
to Pinole Ranch this morning, and the other was not at his
Trailer house. I stopped at Pinole Ranch and found out
from Bob McCownack that the sheep which were moved from
Lake Ranch were now at Three mile well on Pinole. Six Turkey
Vultures and a Raven were circling south of the Pinole Ranch
at 10:45 AM. I drove to Three mile well and found
the aged fat shepherd that was in charge of sheep
at the Cow Camp, last spring, on Pinole Ranch, and
had seen three condor come and feed on a dead sheep
near his Trailer House. He had seen no condor since
that time. Returning to Lake Ranch, Mr. Pinole 7 saw
three Turkey Buzzards fly up from the carcass of a
dead jack rabbit that lay fifteen feet east of the road
as it cuts through the Pass one quarter mile southwest
of Pinole Ranch House.

At Lake Ranch, again, I found the carcasses of
three sheep that were in good shape for condor food, near
the Camp site from where the aged fat shepherd had moved
early this morning. At the Trailer House, inhabited by the
Young Basque shepherd who was camped in Pinole Ranch with
sheep in summer of 1963, was
Temporary vacant, but the carcasses of two sheep were
scattered about 200 feet from his Trailer. The leg bones of one
of these sheep carcasses were pulled out much as it is fun
California condor  
Eben McMillan  
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Case when condor fed on a sheep carcass. I feel quite sure that dogs pulled the bones out from the hide of this sheep carcass for it was so close to trailer house that I doubt condor would come near out it. A sick sheep was standing in the canyon east of the Barnsdahl well and about 200 yards north of the farm road that runs from Barnsdahl well to the east. I drove around this sheep while it stood gasping for breath.

I drove to Carissa Ranch where I ran onto John Foxborn who was filling a spray tank with water at well by mile east of Carissa Ranch buildings. John, who is foreman at Carissa Ranch, said he had seen a condor since last October when he had driven on farm, feeding on the carcass of a dead, newborn calf, down river from the Carissa Ranch about a mile. John said he drove to within 100 feet of the four condors and several turkey vultures, as they fed. He said the birds paid him no heed as he sat watching them for about five minutes at this close range, the condor would chase the turkey vultures about now and then, and only took wing when he (John Foxborn) opened the pickup truck door to step out and see if he could walk more closely.

The condor flew from the area once they left the carcass.

I drove to Carissa Ranch buildings where I met Murphy Chitty who is attending to the cattle there. Murphy and I reviewed the conversation we had with him more than a year ago when we met him at the Dewey Welbing ranch near Soda Lake, on Carissaplain.
when he told us of seeing, what he took to be the Carcass of a Condor, sometime before, when he and another fellow were riding the Telephone line that runs between the Buckhorn Ranch and the Avenales Ranch and on the opposite side of the Range, West from the Buckhorn Ranch. Mr. Chaney told me today he was quite sure the Carcass lay West of the Ridge top on the Avenales Ranch side of the Range and West of where the road that follows this Telephone line crosses a Steep Canyon in a sharp one-half circle after coming over the ridge-top and running down the West side. He thought the bird Carcass to be not more than 100 feet from the Telephone line and lying in Wild Oats among some Oak Trees that grow near the Top of the Ridge. Chaney is pressed for time right now and will continue to be so until after harvest is completed. He did not think time would be available for him to accompany us on a search for this Carcass.

Murphy Chaney said the Condor was lying on its back when they saw it. He did not think it had been there over a year since it had died. He mentioned the bones showing. This would probably have been on the breast where the workings of maggots may have exposed the breast bones and perhaps some ribs.

I drove to San Juan River Valley West of Carissa Ranch. Two adult Golden Eagles along, above and through the oak trees that grow on east side of San Juan creek Valley on road going from Carissa Ranch to the -
Buckhorn Ranch. Both birds remained close together as they moved southward. An up-hill wind, blowing from the west made maneuvering among the trees quite easy for these birds. I paid particular attention to the wrist motion of these adult birds. It was not near so pronounced as it is in young eagles not long off the nest.

At the crossroads in San Juan Valley bottom a hat the foreman of the Buckhorn Ranch a Mr. who, in answer to my question regarding chances of getting atop Branch Mountain, by cars informed me that Buckhorn Ranch kept the gates locked going there and that I would have to get permission from Mr. Beechhoir, who owns the property, before he could let me through the locked gates. I made arrangements to contact Mr. Beechhoir for I would like to go on Branch Mountain in order to chart the course taken by condor in crossing the Santa Maria River from the Sierra Madre Ridge on the West to the Santa Lucia on the east, or perhaps the Caliente Range, meeting Bob Noel as he hoed his field. Near his place on 50a he had seen no condor for about a year. He was still much concerned regarding the amount of promiscuous shooting that goes on during the weekends that has developed since California Valley development came about. He does not feel that the influence of this unrestricted shooting will cause —
California Condor  Eben F. Millian  19 June 1964

The wintering population of Sandhill Cranes that come to the Carrisa Plains in October and remain until spring, to leave the area. He thinks the reason for the early departure of the Cranes in February this year was a result of lack of rainfall.

I stopped by and talked with the young Shepherd at Lake Ranch. He has seen no Condor since last summer when he was with the old "fat" Shepherd when the three Condors fed on a sheep carcass within 100 yards of their trailer house when it was parked near the Gw Gamy on Pine Lake Ranch. It would go without saying that Condors undoubtedly been over this trailer on numerous occasions since then, but unless Condors come down to feed and are within close range of most humans they are never noticed; excepting of course during deer-hunting season when most hunters are searching both ground and sky for something to shoot at. This young shepherd promised to keep a sharp eye for Condors and let me know should he see one.

It was interesting to see the reaction of the young Basque shepherd referred to above when I told him of seeing a Condor shot some weeks ago by a young fellow who was poisoning squirrels for a ranch east of Alvin some weeks ago. This young shepherd immediately asked me if it was a Spanish that had shot the Condor. When he found this was not the case he appeared to be much relieved.

This evening I called James Sinton who is  
Member of the family who own the Avenales Ranch. We assured me we could get saddle horses at the Avenales with which we could ride the Telephone line between Avenales and Buckhorn Ranches in search for the Condor Carcass Murphy Chune was to have seen.

The man at the Buckhorn Ranch today told me that out of 1205 cattle that had been shipped into the Buckhorn Ranch, the greater portion of which were Hereford or Hereford-Durham crosses and considered standard to good grade cattle, he had lost 23 head from one cause or another. He thought about twenty percent of this number of cattle shipped in were Mexican, or Mex-Brahma Cross. Of these he lost only one. This seems to again bear out the thinking that the Mexican or Mex-Brahma crosses bred cattle are much harder and less susceptible to disease than are the better grades of cattle.

A letter from Mrs. Rutledge today stated Jim Rutledge had observed a Condor today 8 miles east of Porterville, Calif. just off reservation road. That was the extent of her message. I wrote for more particulars. Particulars stated he observed this Condor at 12:00 noon today. They were feeding on the carcass of a dead ox.
At sunrise the sky was clear, it was calm, and warm. At 6:45 I left home, picked up Jan at 6:55 and we headed for Fillmore and Cow Springs via Santa Margarita - Santa Barbara and Fillmore. We arrived in Santa Barbara about 9:45 AM, where we stopped at the Museum of Natural History to find Waldo Abbott and Cliff Smith had gone on a collecting trip in the Mr. Pinos region. We spent some time with Phil C. Orr, of the Department of Paleontology, with whom we chatted regarding the remains of pre-historic Condor that has been uncovered on Santa Rosa Island by Mr. Ott and that has been described recently by Dr. Hildegard Howard. Mr. Orr re-told us stories of his recent trip with William Hansen of U.S. Forest Service. He said this outing is an annual affair that Mr. Hansen organizes and he (Mr. Orr) attended this year as a representative of the Museum of Natural History. Phil C. Orr presented us with copies of papers he had written on Arlington Springs, Man, and, The Arlington Spring site, Santa Rosa Island, California. After a lively discussion of these matters that Mr. Orr is well versed in, we drove to Santa Barbara and had lunch.

While at lunch we met Fred Eissler of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society, who with other members of this Society were meeting to discuss recent activities on Steinhadre Ridge and the projected road construction that is in the making there. They, of course, wanted some idea or statement from us regarding condor activity over Big Pine Mountain and the Sierra Madre Ridge. Ian told them that we could not commit ourselves on information relative to the study. Thus we have—
been pressed by numerous interests, even from the Santa Barbara Office of the U.S. Forest Service. For information on Condon findings, but it must be understood that what information we search out in this study, cannot be made public, nor given to any individual until all information is in and compiled. Such information will then be made available to anyone who wishes it.

Before continuing on south, we drove to Goleta, where we looked up Rex Keller, who works for Santa Barbara County Fire Department, and who is the person that Al Martin of Cuyama Fire Station told me had taken the colorized photos of the Condon Carcass that he picked up one mile south of Cuyama Ranger Station on 15 June 1964, when it hung on the fence. He found Keller on duty. We promised to look through his pictures and see if he still had the Condon photo as well as the photo of an Eagle that Keller said had been electrocuted on high power lines in the Cuyama Valley some years ago, and which measured 80 inches from tip to tip of its wings. He told Keller we would stop by the next time we were through Goleta and see if he had found the pictures which we very much wanted.

From Goleta we returned to Santa Barbara where I chatted with Mr. William Hansen while I drove about trying to find a parking place. We obtained a fire-permit from Mr. Hansen and informed him, as we always have done, of the official of the Forest Service, when he intend going into the Condon Refuge to work. Ian said Mr. Hansen was in very good spirits.
California Condor

Eben McMillan
24 June 1964

From Santa Barbara we drove to Ojai, via Casitas Pass. In Ojai we stopped at Forestry Service Office where we set our entry permit into the Condor, dry Sespe Wildlife Refuge, renewed. Ranger Parkinson and his force were in the process of moving the Office Equipment from one building to another next door. Ranger Parkinson took time out to make out our permit and also to discuss topics of the day with us.

Mr. Parkinson told us of being in Rose Valley, in the upper Sespe yesterday. When the temperature was 109 degrees, he thought we were in for some hot weather in the Sespe area about Cow Springs. Mr. Parkinson also told us about seeing five immature Condor near Casitas Pass about a week ago. These condors circled above a water well drilling operation for some time, that Mr. Parkinson had sent to inspect, that was being drilled for the Forestry Service in Casitas Pass area. Ranger Parkinson said the size of the five condors established that they were young birds and not yet fully grown. These birds could not have been more than eight feet from tip to tip of the wings at the most, he assured us. Mr. Parkinson said that Mr. Ed Bennett, at Ojai Forest Service Office, also, had seen these same five young Condor feeding at a Garbanzo dump towards Casitas Pass also.

Ranger Parkinson also informed us that Ray Daley had spent some time in his office about 30 minutes before we had arrived. He informed Mr. Parkinson that he had met Mr. McMillan on the Casitas Pass Ready, but had no opportunity to stop him and—
California Condor

Eileen McMillan
24 June 1964

see what he had on his mind. Mr. Parkinson told us that he and Mr. Dalen had discussed condor this afternoon and that he, Mr. Parkinson, had recommended a system of condor observation reporting whereby condor seen at any point in the Las Vegas National Forest would be recorded by the observer and turned into the Santa Barbara office from where a master list of condor observations would be made up and sent to each District Ranger Station whose personnel would all be aware of this information. As it is now, according to Ranger Parkinson, any condor observations that take place at any of the other District Ranger districts are never seen by him. This seems strange and a statement that upsets all information I have gathered from the personnel at Chuchupate Ranger Station who told he last year that their condor observations all go into a box in a jail that are to be picked up there by Jack Gains. Parkinson's idea was to make it possible so that one could track condor from one location to another. He said, condor that pass Nordhoff Peak lookout at 2:30 P.M. headed north-east could be considered to be the same bird that would be observed coming from the southwest at Thorne Point lookout at 3:05 P.M. This way condor could be followed and timed Parkinson thought. Now, I wonder if Ranger Parkinson even read the rules regarding the matter of condor observation by lookout personnel.
The rules that were shown me by Lookout Calhoun, on
Frazier Mountain last fall spelled out those very same
features, excepting possibly, the matter of forwarding
the observations to the different Ranger Districts. This may
not have been done in the past, but I feel sure the
information should it have been properly recorded and
sent in to the Santa Barbara Office, would have been
available to any District Ranger who would have
cared enough about it to have gone to the trouble to
seek it out. What may I ask here, function does the
wildlife officer perform out of the Supervisors Office.
Should not this be his responsibility to see that
this sort of information should have been going
out all along? We discussed the feasibility of such a
program. One thing seems evident. First, forest service
personnel must be educated, within the range of Condor that
being concerned regarding non-game wildlife must become
a reality and not a joke. This, before Condor observations,
or any other condor welfare movements can be carried out.

we drove to Fillmore and to the home of John Miller,
the new Condor Warden who has replaced Jack Gains, Mr.
Warden Miller lives on road that passes up west side of Sespe River from Fillmore. His house sits near
this road and is about 1/2 mile short of entering the
Sespe Gorge, or the end of public travel on this road. Mr.
Miller was washing his pickup truck belonging to U.S.
Forest Service. I am mentioned that he sure was -
California Condor
Evan McMillan
24 June 1964

Taking good care of that pickup. To this, Warden Miller stated the cleaning of the pickup was for his trip to Ojai tomorrow. He said he must attend a school in Ojai tomorrow, a school in fire prevention, he continued.

Condor warden Miller has two horses in the lot behind his home. He seems to be a person that admires horses and this over motorbikes. We mentioned not seeing any Toto-Gates or motorbikes about his place. He seemed quite proud in stating that neither he nor his son, who is a fine looking and well built lad of about 17 years, have fallen for the motorbike craze as yet. Warden Miller also told us of seeing 12 condors, four of which were immature, in the Buckshot area some weeks ago. Jan has the exact date of this from the Report Miller sends in to Headquarters each month. Warden Miller admitted his lack of knowledge about condors and said he identified the four young condors in the above flock of twelve "by the Book", meaning kefords report. He said that those without the pure white under the wings he took to be immature birds and entered them as such in his report. Otherwise he has not seen many condor of late.

Warden Miller also stated that he had had very little bother from people coming in on Cow Springs road. He said that he did stop trail-bikes at the Kettleman station sometime back and refused to let them continue on towards Cow Springs. The reason for his refusal to allow them entry was the type of spark arrestor their machines had would not meet Forest Service
California Condor

Eban McMillan

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specifically, Miller said these people lets with no concern.

Warden Miller also mentioned never seeing a State of
California Game Warden in the Cow Springs area. He said they
so up as far as the road to the Green Cabins which they take
down into the Sespe River to check on fishermen, but that he has
never seen a Game Warden above the Green Cabin Road

Warden Miller thought that to do the job of Patrolling the
Condor sanctuary, or Sespe wildlife area, properly, he should
be allowed to give the greater part of his time to this job.
He thought that a horseback patrol should be maintained
at intervals into the Ajun Blanca Canyon as well as the
trails leading into the Sespe from Cow Springs and in the
area of the Green Cabins. He thought it a full time job
is properly done.

Yulan Miller lives in an abode that is not a good testament to
his ability to get things done on his own. Of course this may be due
to his wife or possibly his philosophy of life, but in any event his house
and yard are in a very unkempt state. This is common among people
from the mid-west states of Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas as who come
from the lower level of economic livelihood and does not altogether
mean that a person is shiftless and lazy.

We drove up Sespe Canyon and Took Cow Springs Road
in late evening meeting two Trailbikes on which one
adult rode one while two adults rode the other. It was
rather unusual to see adult men riding on these machines
so far away from town. Proving I would think that the -
Youngsters have become tired of them and left them to the parents, or adults, to play with. These Trailbikes were towards Fillmore from Oak Flat Ranger Camp. From Oak Flat Ranger Camp on towards Cow Springs we saw less sign of road use and abuse the farther we went.

Arriving at Cow Springs Campground at dusk we soon had our evening meal and were prepared for the night.

Poor-will commenced calling a few moments before dark. As happened when we were camping here before one poor-will called within 100 feet of our camp. The jumble sound that ends the call notes could be heard very plainly. Also when this bird was not calling a series of low notes much like that of a mourning dove 600 note sounded at spaced intervals for a period of 40 or five seconds. These short notes were very low and at time intervals of about two per second. I am not sure this was from the poor-will, but if not I have no idea what it could have been from.

Many large airplanes came over Cow Springs, and to the west, in late evening. At times one would be only a few minutes behind the proceeding one. All here going in or from Los Angeles, probably most were passenger craft shuttling between Los Angeles and San Francisco.
California Condor  Eben McMillan  25 June 1964

Jan and I were up and on the trail by sunrise. The morning was warm, calm, and clear. We took the foot trail, or cow trail, from Bucksnort to the saddle south of the Bucksnort Heliport and then proceeded to follow the Road—trail that goes up towards Whiteacre Peak and Oat Ridge. No tracks remained in this Road—trail from the jeep in which Jack Cain's climbed this ridge last February when he was shepherding the Purgina Hills photographer about this area. We saw no large birds of prey on the hike up. Great numbers of grasshoppers were hatching and hopping about, on the Oat Spur to the northwest and below the top of Whiteacre Peak.

We pushed on along the Whiteacre Peak trail that leaves the Oat Spur in the saddle below the peak and arrived near site of Nest No. 5 at 10:10 A.M. After some casting about we finally came upon the nest cave. The situation inside the nest cave appeared to strongly support evidence that condor had nested here within the last five years and probably raised a young. Much excitement lined the walls of the nest site to a good height and much of this material still carried an odor. The sand in the nest was cupped and contained built surface many fragments of egg shell that were clear and stainless. Adult condor feathers were picked up at the nest and in the nest cave. Bone fragments, some as large as a hen's egg were picked up in the nest and about the cave bottom. These were all stained and appeared to be-
California Condor  ... Eben McMillan  25 June 1964

Quite old. One boulder that stands at the entrance to Nest No. 5 Cave is print of the pum and two of the toes of a Condor were left here on the top surface of this boulder by a Condor having stepped in fresh etchment just before hopping onto this boulder. This white stain was easily scraped away so could not have been many months old. A pair of Canyon Wren had built their nest in a crevice in the top of the Condor Cave of Nest No. 5 and today this nest contained several well developed young.

From all the evidence we could gather after having spent 30 minutes in Nest No. 5 Cave, we concluded that very probably, a Condor egg was abandon at this nest this spring. Woodrats, that had carried ample supplies of acorns into the back recesses of this cave, would in time, have cleaned up all fragments of egg shell remaining on the surface of the nest sand. Woodrats would probably break any large egg left unguarded in this cave for any length of time.

We left the cave at Nest No. 5 about 11:00 A.M. The Sun had not at this time reached the entrance to Nest No. 5 Cave although it would probably do so about 2:30 P.M. No wind blew at the entrance to the cave although a good breeze was blowing when we arrived in the saddle below Whiteacre Peak to the northwest. I would think afternoontemperatures in mid-summer, in the area where Nest No. 5 is located could set oppositely warm. Probably in the Nest Cave it would not get so warm. I think the sun would shine in...
California Condor  

Eben McMillan  
25 June 1969

on an egg in Nest No. 5 during early spring months in the mid afternoon hours and probably in late fall again. Oak and Big Cone spruce trees grow in front of the entrance to Cave of Nest No. 5. A Condor flying into this cave would have to come in from above and could not fly in from below. A Big Cone spruce grows near the ledge on which the Condor perched with uplifted wings that Leoford photographed. No tree is in sight in Leoford's photograph while a photo could not be taken now without the tree-top being in the picture. I would think it possible that some Condor nest sites could become unusable for Condor due to growth of trees nearby. This location will probably never become totally unusable as a nest site for Condor so long as any inhabit the Sespe Valley.

We were standing in saddle where Oak spur commences below Whiteacre peak when he spotted Condor a long distance to our east over West Cobblestone Mountain Complex. This bird, after circling a bit, came west and went out of sight into Agua Blanca Canyon and behind Whiteacre Peak. This was at 11:58 AM. At 12:03 another Condor was observed coming from Cobblestone into Agua Blanca and dipped from sight behind the rock outcrop on which Nest No. 5 is located, but well towards the bottom of the Agua Blanca Canyon. This Condor came into sight soon after disappearing and was last seen by me passing up Agua Blanca. As this bird circled below I could see well defined bars on the back of wings. —
and the bluish color, to me, established this as an adult bird. Thinking this bird may continue on up the Aywa Blanca and turn east around Bucksnort and slip into West Canyon of the White Peak, a moved out on west face of Oatspur in order to guard this canyon. I am said later that what he was sure to be this same condor returned down Aywa Blanca and disappeared into Outcrops in which West No.5 is located, only this nearer the bottom. The day was hot and calm, probably this condor could be coming in to feed young in an area where he watched Condor go into a hole last November.

We hiked back down ridge towards Bucksnort. From the top of this ridge one can look down towards Dough Flat and Squaw Flat and see the formation that effects this scarp on the east side of Little Sespe Complex. This formation leads to the striped growth of Chaparrel that grows on the varied soil here. Heavy overgrazing by cattle on this area has created a situation very conducive to the protective effects it has as a fireguard. Even were a fire to be able to get through this formation, with its scattered vegetation, its speed would be checked, and intensity minimized, whereby control should be easy.

The shrub Mahogany (Cercocarpus betuloides) makes it possible for cattle to remain in the Squaw Flat, Bucksnort, and Cow springs area throughout the year. During the dry summer months cattle have browsed on this shrub heavily. The linear-
growth of the shubbery along the west scarp of the little Sespe complex creates a situation that enables these cattle to move among this shubbery freely to browse. The result of this open browse type shows well in the good condition of the cattle that came to drink at Cow Springs, even though most herbaceous plants have long past been grazed away by these cattle. Good numbers of Deer that frequent this same area, also appear in very good condition.

We arrived back at Camp by 2:45 P.M. having seen no large bird of prey during the day, excepting the two Condor. At 3:30 P.M. a very black Red-Tailed hawk with very light spots at outer quarter of its wings sailed high over Cow Springs to join another adult Red-Tailed hawk that circled above Buckshort Cabin.

At 4:45 P.M. we hiked the Cow Springs—Sespe River trail towards the Sespe River. This trail shows a history of long usage, probably even in pre-Spanish times as in places this trail shows much wear and on one hillside, ditches angling down from the ridge top show where many past trails have been abandoned due to erosion making them unusable, thus the changing from one trail to another. Some of these trails are now more than three feet deep. We continued on to a point from which we could look down on the nearly right-angle turn that the Sespe River makes as it turns West after coming up from Fillmore Northward. This angle turn is about ten miles above the mouth of the river gorge near Fillmore.
Califovnta Condor Eben McMillan 25 June 1964

From where we stood looking into the Sespe gorge it was plain to see how critical to Condor welfare the proposed Topa Topa Dam on the Sespe river will become should this planned water impoundment become a reality. The damsite itself is proposed for the area near this angle in the Sespe river that is like the hub of a wheel for the navigation of birds that travel the lower reaches of this river and its drainage canyons. Condor flying the Sespe river canyon, the Alder Creek drainage or the Coldwater creek or its drainage, would have to pass over or to the sides of this Dam. There is simply no doubt but that the construction of this dam would seriously effect the remaining Condor population. Anything that would increase the human usage of this area from that which now exists could trip the balance against Condor that would crowd them out of our faunal picture.

A newly repaired road that runs into the Sweetwater area of the Sespe river and was only opened in 1962, according to Ranger Parkinson in our discussion yesterday, to hunting and camping by automobile, for the general public, could have affected Condor numbers already. Irresponsible shooting in this area would be very damaging to Condor movement through this vital highway. A roadway that was opened in 1961 to the hunting public, that allows them to travel from Chief Pete to Mines Peak and Red Reef Trails, was a bad move. This opened an area that,
California Condor  Eben B. McMillan  25 June 1904

Now puts the flight of Condor, that come out of the Santa Paula Canyon and Bear Heaven areas, directly over hunting camps of sunners that have already proven beyond any doubt that they will shoot at any large bird that comes within their range of fire.

We returned to camp at sunset and dined as the last sunlight tipped the high ridges. The poon-will called close to camp again just before darkness fell. Airplanes shuttled back and forth on the inlet runs over our camp. It was warm again tonight. Mosquitoes were at work.
We were up and on our way towards Fillmore by sunrise. As we passed squaws flat a doe and fawn, both in good condition jumped from the roadway into the brush. Seldom did we travel more than a quarter mile, along this roadway, without our seeing brush-rabbits. Mt. Quail also were seen on several occasions along this road. No young Mt. Quail were seen and only one young Valley Quail was seen out of many smallcoves we saw. Both Mt. and Valley Quail were mounting heavily as was shown by the V in the center of their tails when they flew, or else the numbers of loose Quail feathers along the dusty trails and in the roadway where they had come to bathe in the dust.

We turned from main Sespe road, below maple creek, and drove down towards The Green Cabins. At a lookout point about onehalf mile above the river bottom and one from which we could command a view of the west side of Sespe river from San CAYETANO mountain to Topa Topa mountain. The morning was hot—Calm and some high cirrus clouds. We saw no large birds in the area during the two hours we held this area under observation. A newly graded roadway going down from where he parked our car gave us some concern. We wondered what development was responsible for this improvement. We will have to wait for later word on this.

Stopped at Goleta, Santa Barbara county fire offices and found Rex Kent had not yet looked up the Condor photos we were anxious to see. He promised to set this for us.
California Condor

Eben Hewitt

29 June 1964

Enroute to Yosemite Park I checked with the following people who live north of Fresno, in the foothills, close to highway 41, near where I saw 19 Condor in 1959.

D. N. McDougall was not home, but his wife told me he had not seen Condor since he was here last summer. E. M. Shaubach who lives one half mile north of where we saw the 19 Condor in 1959 had seen no Condor. Don Duncan at University of California experimental range of San Joaquin Valley headquarters at Coarsegold, said that although he had been particularly watchful for Condor, none had been seen. I also got the same story from the personnel of the Calif. State Department of Forestry fire station near Coarsegold. No one there had seen Condor.
A Note in the Mail Today from Frank R. Stockton of Granite Station, Van, Bakersfield, Kern Co., Calif., reveals the following, to wit:

Saturday June 27, 1964 - 9 A.M. / Condor feeding on Calf SW corner sect. 24 T 26 S R 29 E. Flew north when disturbed, may have landed on hill to north. Noted ... 3:00 P.M. 2 condors on hill south of Calf circling and in trees. 4:15 P.M. one flew away to southwest. 4:23 P.M. 2 additional high - same locality - 2 still in trees. 4:45 P.M. all left to SE - minimum of 5, possibly 8. 4:50 / still circling high - had to ride field.

Dead Calf South side of hill - 5:20 P.M. 2 condors in trees + 1 circling.

June 29 - No condors seen in this area. 5 P.M. to 6:30 P.M.

Frank Stockton's place is situated about five miles north of Granite Station. Probably there were five condors at his place on 27 June 1964. Or was the same flock of 8 condors that Jim Butler saw 8 miles east of Porterville, Calif. on 19 June 1964?
California Condor

Eben M. McMillan
2 July 1964

I drove to the area on the Carissa Ranch that had been used as an experimental ground, only the last two days, in spreading poisoned grain from an aeroplane to kill squirrels. This area is on the San Juan river drainage about fifteen miles up-river, on SE, from the La Panza Bridge on highway \( \text{I} \). Jan was present when this experiment went on, when the process of dropping the poison was worked out. That was on June 30, 1964. The actual poison was applied yesterday. I remained in this area for three hours, from 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. One Turkey Vulture wheeled by at 12:45 P.M. At no time did I see Raven or magpie about the area although both can be found here. No Eagles were about. I doubt that many poisoned Carcasses were about.

It seemed to me this \( \text{aerial} \) scattering of poison will be very ineffective in controlling ground squirrels and could bring about the loss of livestock. On one area where a shower of this poison had been dropped the ground was bare and the dropped grain could be seen. This poison was thin enough so that where it fell in grass on which cattle were grazing, there could be losses. Where falling in grass, ground squirrels and Kangaroo Rats would probably find few grains of the poisoned material.

I would doubt this method of poisoning ground squirrels will ever prove successful.

Compound 1080 was used to treat the grain used here.
California Condor  Eben Tschannan  July 3-1964

Word just now (6:15 A.M.) came over the Radio that a serious brush fire that is raging in the Saugus-Newhall area presently was started by a stray bullet severing a high-power line. The fire started yesterday afternoon.

The Saugus-Newhall area is about ten miles south of the Sespe Wildlife area and is probably used by Condor. That firing of guns goes on continually throughout the Southern California area is well documented. The prohibition of shooting guns in most of Los Angeles County is a result of this activity. This is a serious factor in Condor welfare.
California Condor  Eben McMillan  9 July 1964

Gladys McMillan and I left for Glennville, Kern Co. Calif. at 6:30 A.M. A cool west wind was blowing. It was clear and dry. Passing down Bitterwater Valley we noted numbers of cattle still on the range on Todd Twisselman lands near the mouth of the valley. What was amazing about this observation was that even though this range has been dry and forageless since early May, these cattle look remarkably good.

Considerable vegetation, dry now, covers the foothills east of Farnsworth from highway 65 to the Bakersfield-Woody road. East of the Bakersfield-Woody Road a tremendous carry-over of old feed is in evidence. I picked up a road-killed Cottontail near Granite Station to use as bait should Vultures or Condor be in the Woody area today. We arrived at Farnsworth, Glennville Ranch at 8:45 A.M.

After 30 minutes discussing Condor and Cattle with Mrs. Evelyn Farnsworth and obtaining the keys to the gates of their Woody Ranch property where the雀 Poisoning program went on the day before, we drove over Bear Hollow Hill to Woody and then Northwest to Farnsworth property that straddles both sides of the Farnsworth Garces Highway and is about six miles Northwest of Woody, Kern Co., Calif. Passing Woody at 10:00 A.M. we saw a flock of Seven Turkey Vultures spiraling above the town.

Arriving at the Garces Highway ranch of the Farnsworths we entered to the South via a locked gate. It appeared this field had been poisoned at least two days before. This property is in the exposed granite outcrop that lays along the foothills
of the Sierra Nevada Range throughout its southern end and is just below the oak belt. Tall grasses cover most of this property with wild oats (Avena sp.) predominating. Springs of water come to the surface in the shallow canyons and the water will seep down the draws for a considerable distance creating a situation where willows, Buttonwillow and Gooseberries grow. These such areas offer home to many forms of wildlife—Cottontail Rabbit—California Aidail—and wood rats in particular. Kangaroo Rats live on the south slopes of these canyons and draws where the soil is weaker and the grasses less plentiful.

We drove along a roadway that traverses this property from north to south. The property seems to be about a mile wide at this location. The persons who had spread both Poison Compound 1080 treated potted oats from the left side of a Jeep and strychnine poisoned rolled barley from the right side of this Jeep held mostly to the roadway or else traveled the ridges between the different draws or small canyons. It appeared that a minimum of potted oats had been scattered while the rolled barley was used more freely. Even though the strychnine treated rolled barley was used more freely wherever we found dead poisoned rats in the roadway where both poisons had been scattered we found only potted oats treated with Compound 1080.
in their cheek pouches. In our 100 foot strip of roadway we found three dead kangaroo rats. Near the water draw where we first stopped I found the carcasses of two rats that appeared to have been exposed to the sun for at least half a full day. One of these two rats had 7 grains of Potted Oats in its pouches. The other had no grain in its pouches. Further along the road we came upon one kangaroo rat with Potted Oats in its pouches. This even though both Rolled Barley and Potted Oats were scattered on separate sides of the road. Three kangaroo rats that lay dead in the roadway within 100 feet of one another had no grain in their pouches. Another kangaroo rat was found 200 feet further on the road. It had nothing in its pouches.

The area through which the above road runs did not appear to have a large concentration of kangaroo rats. Rather, tall grasses were growing along this roadway in most places and as do most roadways, it held to the swales and low places. And when passing over a ridge held to the saddles or low passes. This situation found the road holding the areas of richer soil and therefore remaining away from the south slopes and open sandy ridges where the rats were much more plentiful. Nevertheless, we found some dead rats along this roadway and it should be noted that even though Rolled Barley treated with 1080 treated Potted Oats were both used what dead rats we found along this road that had grain in their cheek pouches without exception had 1080 treated Potted Oats even though both Oats and barley were available. This would suggest that either Potted Oats are preferred by California Condor. - Eben McMillan 9 July 1964
Kangaroo rats as food or else the 1080 poison was preferred over the strychnine, or perhaps it could have been a combination of preferences for 1080 on oats over strychnine on rolled barley. Or could it have been that the rats that fed on the strychnine poisoned barley could have made it into their holes unsaved?

On a ridge 200 feet from the road, and up which the jeep had gone scattering the poison at least two days ago, we found a cotton-tail rabbit in a somewhat paralyzed state evidently just expiring from having eaten poisoned grain. This rabbit was still alive but unable to move other than to twist its body a bit and open its eyes when touched with my boot. This comatose condition of the rabbit led me to believe it had take compound 1080 treated oats. This fact would further add to evidence that either 1080 oats, or a combination of both there is preferred as bait by Rats and Rabbits.

In a field that lies north of Garees Highway in the Rag Creek drainage and about one mile further west than the field formally entered we found 28 kangaroo Rats dead along a plowed fireguard that had been made within fifteen feet of the fence that follows the north side of Garees highway. The jeep that had scattered the poison barley - (no 1080 treated oats had been thrown here as far as I could see) had followed this fireguard, considerable & Rolled. Painted barley was still on the ground here even though not near as much as we found at the former field we inspected. Most of the dead rats were within ten feet of this fireguard. A few were more than fifteen feet away and two were more than thirty feet away. Six dead rats, all in this plowed fireguard strip.
California Condor          Eben McMillan          9 July 1964

were within twenty feet of one another and two of these dead rats were within one foot of one another. Twelve of these dead rat carcasses had painted rolled barley in their pouches.

The following is a list of the pouch contents of these 12 rats.

1 - Rat - 15 grains of painted rolled barley in pouches (green)
2 - 12 - 1 grain        "        "        "        "        "        " Pouch
3 - 12 - 4            "        "        "        "        "        " Pouches
4 - 12 - 6            "        "        "        "        "        " Pouches
5 - 12 - 25            "        "        "        "        "        " Pouches
6 - 12 - 6            "        "        "        "        "        " Pouches
7 - 12 - 25            "        "        "        "        "        " Pouches
8 - 12 - 6            "        "        "        "        "        " Pouches
9 - 12 - 8            "        "        "        "        "        " Pouches
10 - 13              "        "        "        "        "        " Pouches
11 - 32              "        "        "        "        "        " Pouches
12 - 31              "        "        "        "        "        " Pouches

Even though one rat had 32 grains of rolled barley in its pouches, the other 11 did not appear overly filled. I have seen dead or trapped rats in the past that had much more in their pouches.

The linear distance of the fireguard along which portion we found these 28 dead rats measured 200 long steps, or 200 yards. The last forty steps were at a right angle with the others as this fireguard had been run into a fence corner from where it turned at right angles with the road and proceeded due north up a 8 1/2% grade of a hill. Only four rat bodies were picked up on this last 40 steps. A pile of granite boulders were
California Condor. Eban McMillan. 9 July 1969

In this corner area where the fireguard made the right-angle turn and another large pile of granite boulders, some more than 8 ft. higher, were about 100 feet uphill and out from the angle of the corner. I photographed these dead rats along with the contents of their pouches. I also hiked across road, and Valley bottom where I climbed a hill in opposite side of the valley and photographed area where we found the 28 dead rats. Seven more dead rats were observed while passing across canyon to photograph.

Much sign of rats was evident where the above 28 Rat Carcasses were found. Throughout this grassland area below the Oak belt, where the band of granite boulders occur all along the foothills of the Southern Sierra Nevada Range on the west slopes, great concentrations of rats (Kangaroo) occur on the South slopes and ridges where the grass grows scanty growth. These remains little doubt in my mind but that Condor could pick up enough dead Kangaroo rats whereby they would take in more than 100 grams of rats poisoned with 1080. Were they the case I am sure the Condor would not be long for this world.

I collected all contents of dead Rat Pouches today and have them segregated as to area and type.

I visited with Ambrosia Hallard who ranches in the foothills about 8 miles west of Woody, June 20. He told me of not seeing Condor this year. Three years ago he said he saw a flock of Condor numbering 20 or more Condor that were feeding on the carcass of a still-born calf in the Oak belt near Woody. He said he has seen Condor feeding on Cows and Sheep; and that he has seen them feeding on road kill their rabbits along the bands,
Ambrosia Villard described Condor as pretty birds, "Why would anybody want to shoot one of them?" he asked. Mr. Villard claims never to have seen Condor feed on squirrels or rats.

Ambrosia Villard described to us the problem they have with irresponsible shooting. He said they have a watertank within sight of the Bures highway one mile above their home. He said it is a continual job to keep the bullet holes patched up in this watertank throughout the year. We think that water is still needed in this spot he thought it best to discontinue use of this watertank. But water is badly needed at this place, therefore the continual job of patching holes in this tank in order that water be available for livestock. "I would sure like to catch one of those shooters in the act of shooting bullets into my tank," stated Mr. Villard. He described to us how on one instance someone had shot off, near the house, a 4' x 7' redwood post by continuing to shoot in at the butt of the post until it was severed in two. "They are Nuts" Villard stated in analyzing the activities of these people who do this damage.

We returned keys to Furnsworth ranch in Glennville at 3:15 P.M. Mrs. Southern, the Furnsworth daughter was at Furnsworth home. She too shows a strong interest in natural things.

We arrived home at 5:30 P.M.

Talking to Kenny Lee, who works for state highway, on grade east of Woody, he told me of seeing 17 Condor about 1st week of August 1961 at just 4 miles east of Fulton Ranger station. The Condors were there for 3 or 4 days, he said.
At 1:35 P.M., an adult condor was observed circling above my house while 2 or 3 Turkey Vultures were concentrating about the hilltop 3/16 of a mile south of my house. This condor was joined at 1:40 P.M. by another adult condor that came in from the west and circled very high. Both these condors drifted eastward, circling. At 1:45 P.M., a small dark spot in the wing condor was observed circling above the same hill where the Turkey Vultures were still drooping out of sight behind. This young condor had the small dark spot in very white underwing small feathers. It had 5th and 6th Primaries missing in right wing. The left wing also had a primary feather missing but I had no opportunity to record which feather was missing. The binoculars were dark and it moved eastward, circling, gaining altitude. At 1:50 P.M., it went into fret slide and when last seen at 2:20 P.M., was still flying East by Southeast down over the center of the Choice Valley.

The dark spot of the immature bird, in the bright white of the underwing, matched that of theスポットイン・スキングボウタード\(^{2}\) bird I photographed at foot of Kent Grade on May 1, 1964. Color slide just received from National Geographic Society show this bird 8 May 1, 1964, to be a Ring Neck also.

Mrs. McMillan drove south of our home to see what the Turkey vultures had been interested in when the Condor came in and circled. We found no vultures there. No doubt the vultures were stopping at the water trough over pass from water well for a drink.
The following are condor records that have been mailed me that I have not yet entered in these notes.

12 Feb 1964 - 12:30 P.M. Re: Condors = 2 certain 2 additional possible. 2 low circling 1/4 mi. N.E. Granite station moved slowly N.E., 2 additional 2 high last seen, 12:30, moving S.E.

Frank R. Stockton


Letter postmarked Feb. 12, 1964 P.M. in Porterville, Calif. records the following from Evalyn Tunsworth -


I observed a young California Condor feeding on carrion on the highway which connects Camp Creek Valley with the town of Brothers in central Oregon. The date was 29 July 1963. The location is approx. halfway between 206 in Orte and Brothers. This is a high lava plains region, 10-15 miles south of the Many Johns. I passed within 100 yds. as it flew up, so there is no doubt as to its identity. Its plumage was dark except for its tail, indicating a young individual.

Sincerely yours, John Rensberger
California Condor  
Ebenitchanan  
12 July 1964

Postcard from Bette L. Moore, postmarked June 15, 1964, Bakersfield, Calif. Pm.

We spotted a condor last evening around 5:30 p.m. flying due north just in front of our house. We're positive it was a condor as he was quite low and the "finger" wing tips was very distinct. Sincerely, Bette L. Moore.

A postcard from Mrs. Evalyn Farnsworth postmarked Feb. 29, 1964, Porterville, California reads as follows:

I saw one condor just west of the forks of the Porterville, Jack Ranch road and the west Limns Valley road. Circling with one Buzzard and two hawks, at 10:10 A.M. Feb. 29. Then at 10:20 I saw two for sure and possibly three circling over the rocky point west of the Blue Mt. Lookout Tower. I am almost certain there were three, but could never see them all in sight at the same time.

E. Farnsworth

A postcard from Mrs. Evalyn Farnsworth postmarked Feb. 26, 1964, PM - Bakersfield, Calif. reads as follows:

We and the road crew both saw four condors circling between the fork of the Posey Flat and Granite Station road and where the Williams road leaves the Granite Station road at 7:30 A.M. Feb. 26, 1964. They also said that they saw five about the first of the month at Rancheria.

Sincerely,
Evalyn Farnsworth
california condor  Eben Mcmillan  12 July 1964

A letter from Mrs. Jane McFellani, Rancho Aveunales, Santa Margarita, California, postmarked March 25, 1963, Santa Margarita, Calif., reads as follows:


Two birds, Inachusia Bottero - Aveunales Ranch
Jan. 15, 1963

Two birds - Haysstack Canyon, La Panza area.
March 8, 1963

Two birds - 16 Canyon - Aveunales Ranch.

The following is from a letter dated July 10, 1964 - Santa Barbara, Calif., and written in answer to a request from me concerning the following information.

The two condors observed on the Sedwick Ranch was in November 21-1964. They were seen over a period of 2-3 months around the area during that winter, and also saw 2 which could have been the same ones soaring over the paradise camp, turn off road from the San Marcos road. These were seen in January 1965.

[By the way their place (Sedwick’s) is called Rancho la Laguna, Ranch sits under Figueroa mountain]. This is in Sespe river drainage, Santa Barbara County, Calif.

The following is a list of observations sent me by Mrs. J. A. Whitner, who at that time lived in Coyama Valley. The note was mailed to about 1960.

December 1, 1955 - 1 condor over Alamur Saddle on Big Pine Mt.
Dec. 9, 1955 - 2 condors over North Pedernales Trail (Trail) on Pine Mountain.
California Condor

Eben H. Mixson

13 July 1964

Jan. 3 - 1956 - 1 Condor over Bear Trap Trail

Jan. 4 - 1956 - 2 Condors over Bear Trap Trail

Feb. 10-1956 - 4 Condors on Rock Ledge near Reyes Creek Camp #2.

April 14 - 1956 - 2 Condors over Cottonwood Camp, Siskiyou River.

May 14 - 1956 - 2 Condors near Santa Cruz Guard Station

Aug. 31 - 1955 - 2 Condors near Little Pine Guard Station

July 22 - 1955 - 2 Condors near sheep camp on Summit Mountain.


Aug. 27 - 1956 - 4 Condors over Burchart on Bush Mnt.

Sept. 2 - 1956 - 1 Condor over Camp Mahon on Bush Mnt.

Sept. 3 - 1956 - 1 Condor over Grave Mnt.

A letter from Bob Marshall of Taft, Calif., written on 6/15/64 reads as follows:

"Incidentally I saw three Condors in the Bitter Creek area about 3 weeks ago." Bob -
California Condor  Eden McMillan  13 July 1964

A letter in the mail today from Frank P. Stockton of Granite Station, Kern Co., Cal. Dated July 10, 1964, reads as follows:

Gary Snow and I saw three Condors on a newly born Calf (born dead), in the NE 1/4 of Sec. 23 T26 S R29 E, on July 5th, 1964. As we rode past they flew to tree about 50 yards away. They could have been immature birds but I did not see them as we came back as I indulged in a game of Conopasture Billiards - fell off a horse - bounced off a cow - bounced off the ground and bounced off a tree. Gary was to call you because they were so gentle that I thought some good pictures could be obtained.

The Condors we saw on June 27 - 1964 were feeding on Calfes two months old. We found another on South Side of hill so that is the reason we could not get a good look at them. They went over the hill to the West banquet. There could have been some immature birds among them. We don't report them unless we are sure, and we see many (Possibly Buzzards) that might be immature birds, we argue about it, change sides, and argue again, but do not report any unless we are sure.

I am making it a practice to slash the hides of animals so your chickens can have easier access to lunch.

Best of Luck

Frank P. Stockton -
I am and I left his place at 7:15 a.m., heading for the Avenales Ranch east of Pismo, S.L.O. Co. Cal. We passed up Shell Creek to Highway 58. (The number of this highway has been changed recently from State Highway 178 to Highway 58.)

The morning was clear, calm and moderately warm. We saw no deer until after passing up Salinas River to the area above American Canyon Public Camp.

Borrowing Jim Sinton's jeep we drove to east slope of Pilitas Mt. Where we left jeep and hiked towards top of Mt. following forest service telephone line along which Murphy Chaney had told us of seeing the carcass of what he took to be a Condor. Even though we searched this line from the top of Pilitas Mt. within a mile of the Avenales Ranch House we found no sign of the carcass; Chaney wasn't sure he was the big bird. Carcass here about two years ago. I suppose many things could have destroyed, or carried it away, before now.

We met Cliff Hudson who is working at Avenales Ranch, he is one of the Cyram Valley Hudsons, but had no recent Condor observations worthy of putting down.

We understand from Jim Sinton, Fred Took and Jack Sinton that deer are very scarce in the Avenales area. The Sinton's are very dissatisfied with the way the U.S. Forest Service is managing and promoting, deer hunting that brings an influx of undesirable hunters, into and over their private lands in Tote Gotesam and Jeps that disturb the Sinton cattle and fowl.
California condor  
Eben McMillan  
15 July 1964

Up trails and roads while hunting for deer. The California Division of Fish and Game also held to blame for this hunting fiasco. It seems that some years ago the Sintons entered into an agreement with the Division of Fish and Game whereby hunting would be allowed on their lands providing it was done under strict regulation and a moderate amount of use was permitted. After the second season of deer hunting the Dept. of Fish and Game lost interest while the area became literally overrun with irresponsible hunters. They are now looking for a solution to the troublesome remaining problems caused by irresponsible hunters.

Returning home he stopped at P20 Guard Station of U.S. Forest Service and chatted with Jim Blake and Ray Barbo. Blake knows condor and mentioned observations that Ian already had turned in to him from the Forest Service office in San Luis Obispo. Blake also acknowledged that deer are scarce everywhere in the P20 area. He thought were the Division of Fish & Game people & drop salt pellets that contained material to inhibit parasites in deer that it might increase the population.

Mrs. Evalyn Farnsworth called at 11:00 A.M. stating that she had seen a condor, in company with several turkey, vultures and crows, at 9:45 A.M. circling low over their property called the Fig Tree field, that is on North side of Garces Road, about 1/4 mile north west by west of Woody-Iron C. C. That was today she saw this condor. This place had been-
Poisoned with Compound 1080 baited rats and strechnine
Rolled Barley within the last Thursday, Wednesday, July 9, 1964, Mrs. Tarnsworth said this is the first time she had
observed Condor following squirrel poisoning operations
and felt these birds were searching for poisoned Rats.
At 3:20 P.M. two doe deer that have been coming to the spring below the house for water and to the apricot tree to feed on falling apricots, for the last six weeks were under the apricot tree today. Both these deer have marks in their ears that makes them identifiable. The lighter colored, of these two does, had two very small fawns, near Dove Spring, on my property, on June 9, 1964. This doe has a deep swallow tail in the left ear and a small upper-bit in the right ear. The darker colored doe has a deep slash in the upper edge of the left ear. When first coming to the apricot tree during last week of June this darker doe had one fawn that was some older than the twins. All came to water and fed on apricots and would spend the warm days among willows below house. Today no fawn were to be seen nor have been seen fawn with these doe for the last four days. The single fawn was the first to go: we saw it last, about one week ago, as it left the spring in the evening with its brother who had come up hill to the west, and out of sight. Passing up the hill, to the west of the spring, this fawn lay down three separate times. We were not surprised when it did not show up the next day or any day thereafter.

The fawn weakened steadily the last ten days, becoming rough coated, rough coated, and wobbly on their legs as well as losing apparent fear of man, for on an occasion a week ago they both came and fed on...
Cal downs Cywdor oben Siena te 20 Joly 146Y

apricots while I hunted an English Sparrow, within 50 feet of where they fed, without their running away. I discharged a 32 caliber shot shell without frightening them. Neither of these fawns have been seen since last Thursday AM.

Due to the dry season, with a lack of green summer annual plants that support deer through the dry seasons here, deer are in trouble. I would predict that before cool fall weather comes three out of four fawns in eastern S.I.O. Co. will die. This will furnish an ample supply of food for scavengers at a time of year when domestic livestock are producing a minimum of food for Condors.

On Thursday evening, July 16, 1964, I placed the carcass of a deer (Roadkill) on the hill south of the house. Turkey vultures, up to ten, came to feed on this carcass on Saturday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Now on Monday, no Condor came to feed on this carcass.
In totaling up condor records from 1958 to the start of this study the following were recorded:

14 May 1958 - 2 condor feeding on dead steer in San Juan River valley one mile North of La Panza bridge - San Luis Obispo County California Observer - Don Lewis Verbal

23 February 1959 - 1 condor over E. McMillan Ranch - 1 mi. South and 8 mi. E. of Shandon, San Luis Obispo County, Calif. By E. McMillan

3 April 1959 - 3 condor flying over Navajo Canyon near Paso Robles - Canissa plains road. 17 miles South and 8 miles East of Shandon, San Luis Obispo County, Calif. Verbal - Bob Lewis

27 April 1959 - 1 condor over E. McMillan Ranch - 1 mile South and 8 miles East of Shandon, S.L.O. Co. Calif. - E. McMillan

21 May 1959 - 1 condor in Palo Prita Canyon one mile North and 7 miles East of Shandon, S.L.O. County Calif. - G. Rambo Observer


30 March 1960 - 2 condor circling over Old La Panza Postoffice S 36 - T29S - R 16E. San Luis Obispo County, Calif. - Bethel Bros. Verbal


13 May 1962 - 11 Condor - seen on Shastroh Ranch - 5 miles northwest of Simi-ventum County Calif. Observers - Bruce Strathern, John Tutt, Jr., Gregory McNamara and Eben McNamara.


1 condor adult. 10 Aug. 1962 - 1 adult Condor - over E. McNamara Ranch - 1 mi. S. and 8 miles East of Shandon, S. D. Calif. - Eben McNamara.
A letter from Hal Seyden dated 20 July 1964 records the sighting of a condor as follows: Today I finally saw my first condor not in captivity. It was apparently a young bird as it was quite white on the underside of the wings and sides of the breast. When I first observed the bird it was roosting on a Ponderosa Pine snag about one mile south of the Delilah Lookout on Pine Ridge in the White Deer burn of 1961. As Floyd Jennings and I approached the tree, the bird flew off and began a slow climb to get up over the ridge and headed west. This was at 10:00 A.M. this day. About 2:00 P.M., I again saw a condor, probably the same bird, soaring over the ridge in the same area.

Floyd Jennings and I discussed the presence of condor in this area and he stated that he has seen two or three birds in this area for many years. He lives just off State Highway 190 near Sierra Inn. His address is if you wish to write to him.

Floyd Jennings—Star Route—Kings Canyon National Park, California.

He stated that on Sunday, July 5, 1964, he and his wife watched three and possibly a fourth condor soaring to the north and east of his home approximately one mile west of where we saw the bird today.

I hope that this information will be of use to you in your census, if it is not too late. I also hope this finds you and your wife in good health. If I can be of any further assistance to you please write or call me. My new address is Hal Seyden—Fidlerup Ranger Station, Mammoth, California—Phone Fidlerup No. 2.

I first met Hal Seyden at Fulton Ranger Station, east of Glennville, Kern Co., Calif., on July 4, 1963. He is a timber cruiser for us, does service and impresses one with his appearance.
California Condor Eben Prentiss

24 July 1964

A letter from Waldo Abbott, of Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History in Santa Barbara, in answer to questions concerning condor observations Mr. Abbott had made at Sedgwick Ranch, West Slope of Figueroa Mt. in the Santa Ynez river drainage of Santa Barbara County, the following is recorded - Letter dated 10 July 1964.

The Two Condors we observed on the Sedgwick Ranch was in November 21, 1954. They were seen over a period of 2-3 months around that area, during that winter. And also we saw 2 which could have been the same ones soaring over the paradise camp turn off road from the Sun Ranch Rd. These were seen in January 1955.

Also a letter from Mrs. Jim Rutledge of Porterville who answered my Question as to the time of day, and what the 8 Condors were feeding on when Mr. Rutledge saw them on 19 June 1964.

I entered these on Page 753 to correspond with the first information I received of Mr. Rutledges Seeing these birds. Mrs Rutledge also Stated that Jim Rutledge saw 2 (Two) Condors at 8:30 am the 22nd June, just west of Springville, Tulare Co., Calif.
This is to record a letter which has been hidden in my brief case for several months and thereby never having been seen entered. When and where it should have been. It is from Waldo Abbott and dated Santa Barbara, Cal. Mar. 22, 1963.

Just a quick note to report the sighting of 2 Condors March 21, 1963. Cliff (Clifton Smith) and I took a trip into the Sierra Madre yesterday and while at Timber Peak had the pleasure of having one bird come by at 2:40 pm, following the ridge in a easterly direction towards sanctuary. Three miles down the ridge towards Miranda, Pines was another bird in the same direction. I assume they had been feeding in the cypresses and were taking advantage of the stormy updrafts on the south side of the ridge to help them on their way.

I imagine that if a person were to spend some time on the ridge we would quite often see birds sailing by. One was a real old bird with a very light line across the back and wings. They were about 50 ft. above us, but out about 100 yards. Wonderful display of primary feathers in action as they felt the drifts.
This is a record of a letter from Don S. Roberts, Mt. Pinos Fire Control Office, that is in answer to inquiry I had made relative to information given me earlier that Mr. Roberts had observed a condor on Big Pine Mountain. The following to wit:

May 20, 1964

Frazier Park, Calif.

25 July 1964

Mr. Eben McMillan
California Condor

Dear Sir:

In regard to your recent letter about our recent conversation on the condor, hope I can answer a few of your questions.

The Condor is a regular visitor to the Big Pine area at least during the spring months.

At the times I observed the condor on the west Big Pine Ridge, we were working train about four and one half miles west of the lookout towards Mission Pines Basin. They were seen circling fairly high overhead, usually late morning hours and early afternoons. The time of year was May, it was clear weather with warm days and cool nights.

The birds that were seen sitting in trees were seen earlier in the year, late March or early April. I can't recall the time of day, but it was probably morning hours. They were sitting in the old dead snag along the Big Pine Road between Big Pine and Alamere Guard Station.

Signed Don S. Roberts,

Eben McMillan
California Condor
California Condor  Eden McMillan  25 July 1964

The following are records received in the past that were not entered:

Post card from E. Yarnsworth—postmarked March 1964—Glennville, Calif. states as follows: 12:25 P.M. MARY.

one adult circling over center of Linns Valley opposite road to Blue Mnt. Tower.

E. Yarnsworth—

March 2, 1964

Frank Stockton saw two condor over his house, Low, last Saturday Feb. 21- flew high towards southeast—came millin.

Porterville Calif.

Saw two adult condor 11:15 A.M. 10/6/4—2 with their collars pulled up around their ears on a dead oak about 200 feet from the woody road about a mile above where the Blue Mnt. Road leaves it—approximately 3 miles east of Woody—

Mrs. Yarnsworth continues that she saw the condor at other locations near Woody throughout the day but thought they all could have been these two same birds—end of letter has more about area.

A letter dated June 22, 1964, from Mrs. Evelyn Yarnsworth, in which she describes Squirrel Poisoning in her area is also entered with material—other letters dated June 7, 1964—Feb. 1, 1964—Aug. 13, 1963—all entered with Condor material.
On 24 June 1964, while talking with Ken Millar in Santa Barbara, he was describing to me the number of bird species that had come to the bird feeder he and Mrs. Millar maintain at their home in the foothills behind Montecito and about three miles S.E. of Santa Barbara. He claimed to have recorded some 100 species of birds about or over his yard, one of which is the California Condor. Two Condors circled high above his home on one occasion.

Last evening I put the carcass of a spike deer which we picked up at roadside 100 yards west of Shinnmon Canyon Bridge on highway 46 about 6 miles west of Shandon this afternoon, on the hillside about 300 yards south of my grain tank, here at home. One Turkey Vulture fed on this carcass briefly at 3:00 P.M. Three Turkey Vultures circled my house and although drifting back above the deer carcass left without lightning near it at 3:30 P.M.
Turkey vultures came and went about the deer carcass that I put out on hill south of green table during the day. At 9:30 a.m. one vulture was seen feeding on this carcass and at 3:00 p.m. seven vultures were on the ground fighting and feeding but none stayed feeding for any length of time. At 3:30 p.m. several vultures were scaring about and soon after left the country. I checked the carcass in late evening to find it had dried out considerably and most of the meat had been picked from the paws, ribs and hind quarters. But most of the front quarters and neck remained. What remained was parched and dry and already well putrefied.

The above is ample evidence that animal carcasses do not remain in an edible state for scavengers in the hot dry summer as long as is the case in colder weather. In winter a carcass can remain in very edible condition for a week or ten days while now, in mid-summer, two or three days is the most one can expect scavengers to feed on large carcasses at least.

At 4:45 p.m. Mr. Mitrank St. Clair of the Kern County District Attorney's Office in Bakersfield called me long distance to remind me of the forthcoming Thomas Binkley Trial which he advised is to be held in Tehachapi Justice Court next Friday July 31, 1964 at 10:00 a.m. Mr. St. Clair asked if I could be present at 9:00 a.m. in order to discuss with him factors relative to the trial. I informed him I would be in Tehachapi at 9:00 a.m. Mr. St. Clair also wondered if I had any photos of Condor I could present at
The trial as evidence that we know Condor and what they look like. I told Mr. St. Clair I would have photographs of Condor with me.

I was also advised by Mr. St. Clair that Howard Binkley had moved to Sacramento, California and is employed in that area now. He said it is possible Mr. Binkley will not show up for the trial, in which case, the trial would again be postponed until Mr. Binkley could be brought before the Courts. He mentioned also that Mr. Binkley had either quit or been fired from the Ellsworth Ranch in Cummings Valley where he was employed when the condor shooting incident took place.

In the course of the telephone conversation I had with Mr. St. Clair I asked if other witnesses were being called. He said he doubted any would be usable as they had mentioned before to the District Attorney's Office Special Investigator, he had hired to the Ellsworth Ranch to gather information, following the setting of a trial date by Judge Wood of Tehachapi, that they worked for the Ellsworth Ranch and were not sympathetic to enforcing the law in this case. I mentioned Dan Garcia to him and told him that Mr. Garcia would be a star witness and that he did not work for the Ellsworth Ranch, but that he had been at the Ellsworth Ranch as a representative of the Kern County Agricultural Commission Office the day of the shooting and had no reason to favor anyone in Mr. Clair's cause and so voted for Mr. Garcia in a trial and gave him but he would appear as a witness in favor of the People.
California Condor

Eben M. McMullen

30 July 1961

Even though good numbers of Turkey vultures came to feed on the two deer carcasses I put on the hill south of my grain tank within the last two weeks, no Condor have shown up. It is probably worthy of note that during the hot, dry summer months the carcass of an average sized deer is only available for two or three days at the most. Otherwise it dries up and putrefies.

It now appears that Condors, if in need of food, scout a large portion, if not their total range constantly. Should food be found available anywhere within the Condor range, that is available as food to Condors, they will find it providing they are in short supply. Even though only one Condor should find a usable source of food, and providing this source could supply more than the one Condor, others will come in within a day or two to feed. Thus even far ranging probably check in at the central roosting location, which is probably within the Sespe Wildlife Preserve, each day or so. If Condor find a plentiful supply of food, even at the extremes of their range, and are seen only in small numbers, it would seem safe to postulate that other food is available in good quantity else more Condor would soon come. Therefore it is my thinking that, in times of need, the total Condor range is hunted constantly and that communication is made between Condor when an ample supply of available food is found.

Dear undoubtedly furnish a relatively constant food supply for Condors. Range conditions over such a large area is the total Condor range, offers varied weather conditions throughout the seasons. A drought with corresponding die-off in deer could -
California Condor  

Edward McMillan  

easily develop in one area and not necessarily effect other areas of the range. 1964, with a Total drought in eastern San Luis Obispo County with heavy mortality in cattle, sheep and deer. While ample rains and very satisfactory range conditions exist along the eastern foothills of the San Joaquin Valley, heavy die-off in heifers and calves in the foothills of the southeastern San Joaquin Valley due to what is termed a foot-ill abortion. Too little to all of these types of cattle while little or no trouble with heifers calving was evidenced in other sections of the Condor Range. Deer season commences west of highway 99 in early August running into mid-September that no doubt furnishes a plethora even of dangerous, of food for condor. No sooner does the hold-over of food from this early deer season run out than the later, or East of Highway 99 deer season takes place. This deer hunting itself should furnish all condor with ample food for three months. 18-Sept.-Oct. + year. We have now fairly established that except for a lull in late May, June and early July, cows are calving throughout the Condor Range throughout the year.

The above are but a few of the factors that can be used to substantiate our thinking that food for Condor is of no consequence as a survival factor.
California Condor    Edward Tschirlian

31 July 1964

Jan and I, with our wives along, left for Tehachapi at 6:00 a.m., arriving ahead of our 7:00 a.m. reservation by 30 minutes. Using the spare time we had at our disposal we questioned Mr. Fred Harris, who runs the Holiday Soaring School in Tehachapi, for information that might lead to corresponding flight in both Condor and Glider.

Mr. Harris described to us how air currents coming both sides of the San Joaquin Valley come together west of Tehachapi where a vortex is formed by currents that come down west side of San Joaquin Valley then swing around lower end of the Valley swing up through Cummings Valley meet to form this cyclonic situation where currents have come down east slope of San Joaquin Valley and sweep up Caliente Creek to meet with southern current near what is known as Mr. Harris as Black Mountain west of Tehachapi. In this cyclonic situation a Glider can be carried up at the rate of 2000 feet per minute and form a condition where at times the problem of a Glider pilot would not be how to stay up as much as how to get down. Harris told how near every updraft there is a down current. Glider pilots have long recognized the ability of soaring birds such as Hawks and Eagles as well as Condor and Turkey Vultures, and keep watch for birds circling to give them a clue where up currents can be found. Mr. Harris said the Glider pilots have the currents pretty well mapped in the Bear Mountain and Tehachapi area where they find these currents remain quite stable and can be found quite dependable from month to month and year to year.
Mr. Harris also told us of gliding in one of these cyclonic winds with what he took to be a condor, some months ago. He thought the bird he was sharing this updraft with had a dark head that was feathered. Harris said he was 700 feet from the bird when it dove below him and was lost from his sight. Harris claims to have observed swallows at 12,000 feet, hawking insects in the air. He claimed to have seen large hawk-like birds as high as 10,000 feet elevation.

Mr. Harris stated that he has observed large birds flying at 60 plus miles per hour ground air speed. He claims it is not an unusual incident for a glider pilot to reach air speeds of 125 miles per hour or more in level flight. Mr. Harris feels that condor, with natural characteristics that enable them to reach much higher perfection in soaring flight than is the case with a fixed-wing glider, should have no problem in soaring 100 miles per hour or even faster when at high altitudes and with favorable air currents.
California Condor

Elean Hamilton
31 July 1904

I am and I met Claude St. Clare, of Kern County District Attorney’s Office, in front of Justice Courthouse in Tehachapi at 9:03 A.M. We retired to the ladies lounge where the forthcoming trial of Howard Binkley was held at 10:00 A.M. and discussed some details about the plans we made. Mr. St. Clare took my Condor photographs and Bestor’s monograph of the California Condor. At 10:00 A.M., we retired to the judges’ chambers. Mr. Howard Binkley was not present at 10:00 A.M. His attorney stated that he had talked with him on the phone yesterday at which time Mr. Binkley stated he would be in Tehachapi at 10:00 A.M. Today, Mr. Binkley’s attorney asked for a delay in the time to start the proceedings of the trial for a few minutes. Judge Woods allowed Binkley’s request to stand because, as the Judge stated, Mr. Binkley may have had a first-time or something of the like.

At 10:10 A.M., Mr. Howard Binkley arrived, was ushered into the Court and the trial commenced with Mr. Binkley’s attorney asking that the trial be cancelled due to a technicality whereby the Judge calling for a renewal of the trial had exceeded his authority and that the trial in not being carried out before a certain date following an agreement of the defendant was not within the law. Mr. St. Clare argued this case and other unimportant features for about thirty minutes prior to the Judge ruling against the motion of Binkley’s attorney. Mr. St. Clare then put me on the witness stand, the Judge swore me in, and Mr. St. Clare commenced questioning me. His first question was asking me to state my name, and occupation - I testified that I was a Rancher.

Mr. St. Clare then asked what experience, or qualification -
California condor

Eben M. D. Hillman
31 July 1964

To be capable of recognizing large birds and identifying them as to species, I answered by stating from childhood I had been interested in wildlife and birds in particular, while I have been an active member of both the American Ornithologists Union and the Cooper Ornithological Society for many years. Do you think your experience would qualify you to be able to identify a condor in flight within reasonable distance, but St. Clare asked me. I answered that at present I was one of a team of two persons who had been commissioned to make a general census and population count of California condor in their normal range which encompasses most of Kern, Ventura, and San Luis Obispo Counties and portions of Santa Barbara, Monterey, Tulare and Fresno counties with odd occurrences of condor in Los Angeles, San Benito and Madera Counties. I thought this would offer evidence that I would know condor well enough to identify them under most conditions. Mr. St. Clare then asked me to relate the incidences that happened on May 28, 1964 on the Ellsworth Ranch that is on the Sheep Trail grade about 10 miles east of Arvin, California. This I did repeating as near as I could the chain of events that led up to and followed the condor shooting incident on May 28, 1964.

I was then cross-questioned by the defense attorney. He tried to draw me out whereby my testimony would make it appear that I had conspired to make a case whereby Binkley would be brought to trial and in so doing act as a witness to develop notoriety whereby such would —
California Condor

Caldnrynris Condor: Shen a. 3/ July 1964

bring in focus the need of preservation movements if condors are to be saved. He tried to set me to state that this was my motive. Following the cross-examination Binkley’s attorney reminded the Judge that I was no doubt an honest and conscientious man, but had been associated with Condor while studying them that my instincts overdeveloped regarding the protection of these birds and that I would be prone to see things in a light that would condemn anyone who might even act as though he would understand them.

Howard Binkley was put on the Witness Stand. By this time the hour was near 12:00 Noon. The Assistant District attorney had to be at three other cases in Mojave at 1:00 P.M. Both lawyers went outside for a brief consultation with the consent of the Court and a statement from the Court that he would continue the case on past 12:00 Noon provided it did not drag on more than a few moments. Of course the Ass’t, D.A. consented to this. The defense attorney must have felt guilty at having things so much his own way, when the attorneys returned Binkley was asked to give his version of the shooting incident. He told how he and his wife’s brother, Burney Harris had seen these two Buzzards sitting in the tree and hiked across the Canyon and set on some rocks waited until the Buzzards came directly over them he shot towards at the Buzzard that only doubled its speed as far as he could say. Binkley at no time denied he shot at a bird - his defense testimony rested on the fact -
that he shot at a bird which he took to be a buzzard. His attorney in question's Binkley kept dwelling on this feature of the case. That here was a young fellow who was not trying to hide anything, did not hide nor try to run away when I approached him following the shooting, nor has he denied that he shot at a bird. Thus it stands as sound evidence that this man Binkley did not shoot at any condor knowingly nor since he shot at a Buzzard in a previous time as attorneys rested their cases here. The Judge ruled for acquittal on the evidence presented. He said that the plaintiff did not prove beyond a reason of a doubt that the defendant had shot the condor. That he had some experience and knows that large birds, when shot close to, will dip their wings and dive, and that without a corpus delicti, (the body of the bird) it was very difficult to attach the crime to the defendant.

The Judge also praised the defendant (C.Binkley) for his honesty in not leaving the country when the Judge entered his bail. He told the defendant "you said you would be here and you came! I must encourage you for your honesty," he made no mention of the Binkley being ten minutes late for the trial. The trial was over and he left the Court at 12:15 pm.

On the sidewalk outside Judge Binkley said to Mr. Warden Reed, Warden Tharp and I, that, this case, (the Binkley case) had been tried and finished several times in the press before the defendant was even arraigned. He -
Stated, "that boy was hanged, drawn and quartered before he ever entered this Court, by the Newspapers and Radio."

Judge Woods seemed much disturbed at the publicity. This case of a murder in a shanty was admitted that he had reversed his decision. Not on the evidence presented in court, but rather opposing the evidence that the Press and Radio that prejudiced him in favor of the defendant in this case and the subject of most of the News and Radio stories or releases.
At 6:50 am, today I saw a Swainson’s hawk circling above the roadway 1/4 mile west of my house. Clouds obscured the sun, making it somewhat difficult to see the coloration under this bird’s wings, but it appeared to have been of the dark phase. I enter this observation as evidence that Swainson’s hawks do pass through this area in August. This matter is important in assessing the observation of 60 plus condors in southwest Kern County, in August, by Mr. Bert Snedden.

Turkey vultures are still about although I saw a flock at Shell Creek, 4:10 pm. A mouth of Shell Creek, 6 miles SE of Shandon that indicated they might have been on migration.
Jim Ben Williams of Granite Station Phoned at 7:00 P.M. to tell that his Brother Emyle Williams had seen one Condor along with several Turkey Vultures that were feeding on the carcass of a steer that had died and been dragged out of sight of road about one mile south of his home and three miles north of Granite Station. Jim Ben said the steer had only been dragged off yesterday morning and thought the birds would be back again tomorrow in that it was 5:00 P.M. When Emyle Williams frightened the birds away, the Condor flying down Canyon to the west as it left and not returning. For Jim Ben's wife drove to carcass later in evening to check only to find nothing there at the carcass.

Tomorrow Dan and I go to Sierra Ly to look out and sort problems from the notes. We will try to get back by evening so I want to go to Frazier Mountain where I want to watch deer hunters on first day of deer shooting season to see what reaction they have towards Condor should any fly over their head.
California Condor   Elean McMillan  Aug 6-7-1964

Jim and I drove to Berkeley the morning of Aug 6th, where
we remained overnight at the home of Dr. Alden Miller,
and worked steadily on the Condor Report - returning
home late that evening of August 7-1964. -
Arriving at U.S. Forest Service Hunter Checking Station at 7:50 A.M., I found things comparatively quiet. Tom Hoots, whom I had met before at the Chupahate Ranger Station, was in charge of this roadside service area that the Forest Service sets up the afternoon prior to the opening day of Deer season. Camp fire permits are issued here—maps of the main roads, trails and Campgrounds are issued to those who need such. Tom Hoots said some 2,600 cars had been checked into the Mt. Pinos Unit that includes Alamo Mt., Frazier Mt., Tecopa Mt., Mt. Pinos-Grade Valley and Bakers Flats. It was estimated that each car held an average of four people or 10,400 hunters in an area of approximately 216 square miles, or 48 hunters per section, or a hunter on each 1.2 acres of land. Considering that a good portion of the Mt. Pinos District is roadless and rough terrain, into which only odd hunters ever penetrate, it is easy to see how the above area of 1.2 acres per hunter could shrink to several hunters on an acre. Tom Hoots estimated that 10 percent of the hunters knew where they were going and had been here before, 50 percent were lost and had no conception of where they wanted to hunt, or camp, and the other 40 percent were drunk and didn't give a damn if they camped, hunted, or went back to a bar and got drunker. He thought 20 percent of the hunters had been here before. A group of hunters who had
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Checked out a little buck deer even before I arrived at 7:50 a.m. told Hoots they had been coming to hunt on Frazier Mt. for seven years and this was the first time they had experienced success.

I drove to Chuchupate Ranger Station at 8:30 a.m. to find all forest service personnel on a standby emergency situation. A check station for the issuance of maps and camp fire permits was in force here also, and, the office at this station was buzzing with rumors and orders. I was told by the Secretary here that an estimate of hunter numbers was to be compiled at 11:00 a.m. today and phoned into the main office in Santa Barbara, who had given orders that such be done. One gained the impression here, after watching the feverish activities, that the working personnel of the U.S. Forest Service were completely bored with the whole affair and would rather be about their normal tasks, while the administrative personnel were gleefully anticipating the added revenue they could demand be spent in their district. Now that proof of so much use by the public was substantially certified with this overflow crowd, while this was all going on the Secretary at the office desk was calling that a Game Warden be sent up Frazier Mountain to do something about a wounded doe deer that was dying near the roadway.

At Chuchupate I met A.J. Reynolds, a Warden of the Calif. Fish and Game, who was employed as a Predator Trapper by the Calif. Fish and Game Commission in 1941 when Leoford was doing research on condor. A.J. Reynolds furnished Leoford with many of his observations at Condor. He (Reynolds) told me of seeing—
California Condor  
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4-2 Condor feeding on the carcass of a cow near LáHere. At the time Heford was making his study of Condor. Reynolds has not seen Condor for several years although he Patrols the Santa Clara River Valley in Southern Ventura County and spoke of being into the Boy Scout Camp in the Sepca River. It seems strange that one who had seen Condor and been implicated in the research project on Condor that Heford had done, would decline in interest in the wildlife of his area whereby he would fail to see Condor for ten years even though he would be patrolling an area over which Condor must fly at least once a week. It appears evident that Condor welfare is not now, nor has it ever been, a subject of concern among personnel of the Department of Fish and Game of California.

At Lake of the Woods I also met Ed Green who is Unit Manager of the San Diego Unit of the California Department of Fish and Game as Game Manager. He had been sent to investigate district of U.S. Forest Service to take age, weight and Condition checks of deer that were brought to the check station in Lake of the Woods. He told me of talking to a person in Poinset Valley, San Diego County, who runs a Grocery Store near the postoffice in Poinset Valley, who said he had observed what he thought sure was a Condor feeding with Turkey Vultures near Poinset Valley about 1954. Green could not recall the name of this person but said he was an egg collector and, as such, would probably know what Condor looked like and could identify one.

I drove up Frazier Mountain to the upper overflow hunters Camp seeing many hunters along the way most of whom were walking along the Pico. At the upper hunters' overflow...
met Bud Doan who normally handles heavy equipment for the US Forest Service but who had been assigned to patrol duty and had spent last night guarding a barricade just past upper hunter overflow camp near where the road forks, one going to the right toward West Frazier and the Lookout Tower, while the other went left toward NE Frazier mountain. Bud Doan told me the barricade had been set up the afternoon of August 7 in order to prevent hunters from going on top of Frazier mountain to sleep overnight, and in so doing, increase the chances of a forest fire getting started. Forest Service plans were to open the barricade at 5:30 A.M. but the pressure exerted by hunters who gathered after midnight to go atop Frazier mountain, forced the Forest Service to open the barricade at 4:30 A.M.

Bud Doan had the carcass of a spike buck deer which had been shot near the road beyond hunter overflow camp in the back of his pickup truck. He said the deer had been reported to him by a hunter early in the morning when he went to get the spike deer he found it propped up among rocks as though it was alive. Doan said he despised deer hunters. Their only interest in the outdoors, he thought, was to kill or destroy something alive. He thought that were hunting not allowed in the forest lands a much better class of people would come to share the pleasures of the outdoors, while their interests would cultivate the ignorant whereby a better type of people would develop who would appreciate the forest lands and work to be
these lands managed for the best interests of all involved.

Bud Dean said 241 cars had been lined up to pass on top of Frazier Mountain at 4:30 AM. Dean also told me of seeing 2 condors at head of Lion Canyon on Sierra Madre Ridge, on 5 May 1963. These condors circled below above the road grade he was operating at the time. Dean thinks people are opposing the Sierra Madre Ridge Road on the grounds that automobiles will frighten the condors. Dean thinks condors have little fear of machinery or automobiles for at least until 1950 or 1951, when he was grading the roadway from Rose Valley to the upper end of the canyon; on three separate occasions condors came and circled low over his truck.

I drove to the top of Frazier Mountain and left my pickup in the shade of a pine near the Lookout. Charles and Hazel Upham are manning the lookout on Frazier; they are coming here from Stutz Cafe in the Gwyann Valley where they have been for three or four years. They have been seeing condors nearly every day since they have been stationed here. They came to the lookout on 23 July 1964 - Mrs. Upham gave me a listing of condor observations that had been turned in from Frazier Mountain lookout station since 29 May 1964. These are as follows:

1. 29/64 - time 0830 - one - over vic of Highway 99
2. 6/64 - 1300 - one - flying over pine creek
3. 12/64 - 1105 - one - soaring cobbledstone area and N. slopes
4. 5/64 - 1300 - one - Flying E. edge of Forest - S.
5. 4/64 - 1220 - one - flying NE. toward Takhachi.
6. 7/64 - 1910 - two - circling high & of Lebec.
California Condor
3/19-64 3:52 -- one -- from Pinyon N. E. to Grapevine area
4/1/64 10:45 -- one -- flying high over Finley creek
4/1/64 11:30 -- one -- flying NW. disappeared beyond Lebec
4/9/64 13:10 -- one -- circling high west of Lockwood valley
4/19/64 11:30 -- one -- circling then down west of Lockwood valley
4/23/64 16:05 -- one -- over Grapevine area circling low west of B. O.
4/24/64 12:45 -- one -- over Pinyon area circling Lookout. Condor over Gorman area then back towards Pinyon, 20.
4/26/64 14:57 -- one -- last a little north of lookout, hit in tree on summit.
5/6/64 14:00 -- one -- circling over Cuddy Valley
5/6/64 16:35 -- two -- circling over Lebec area
5/6/64 10:35 -- one -- circling over Gorman
5/14/64 13:10 -- one -- circling south of east Frazier mt., disappearing south of Maxwell valley
5/19 15:10 -- one -- circling over east end of Cuddy Valley
6/1 08:35 -- one -- flying over lookout - real low

I chatted with hunters and was about 300 yards SE of the lookout. Two fellows were eating a stroge near their car. They had seen no legal deer to shoot at. They had seen no large black birds, stating that buzzards are unlawful to shoot. Two negroes had hunted down SE face of Frazier in morning and had just returned to their car at 10:00 AM. They knew nothing of big hoofs, doubted any were present. They said it was not 50 too far down mountain side due to everyone shooting downhill. Thought it safer to stay above. The fellow who had an 8 year old boy with him said he could take the boy hunting and all would be peaceful in the family - he hunts deer every weekend.
Califomia Condor

Oregon: John McMillan

8 August 1969

Throughout both the Coastal and Inland seasons, he said he has only killed one deer so far, but has missed several. He also hunts Doves and Quail, also chickadees in season.

This fellow said he had found out just this season, by reading the new hunting regulations, that all large hawks and Eagles are protected and cannot be shot.

Deputy Sheriff Don, out of the Ventura office, was stationed at the Lookout on Frazier Mountain. Deputy Don did not know of Condor and wondered why they would be protected. He has only been on the Sheriff's squad for eight months. Says he plans to stay in law enforcement.

Sporadic shooting went on from 8:00 AM. letting up a bit about 10:30, but still outbreaks occurring now and then. It seems that a sort of follow the leader situation seems to prevail. No sooner does shooting break out in one area that shots can be heard from many areas on the mountain. It appears all, or the greater portion of this shooting is from hunters merely shooting at targets.

Most hunters have returned to their cars by 11:00 AM, and only an odd hunter or two are still out in the woods by 12:00 AM.

Carl Lindquist of Calif. Fish and Game Los Angeles Office, came about 11:00 AM, to Frazier Mountain lookout. Lindquist is Game Manager II. in the Los Angeles district and oversees all biological programs undertaken in his area. He knew little of Condor and had never seen one to fully acquaint himself with their characteristics. He had heard that Ian McMillan was doing some biological research on them. Lindquist
Californian Condor

Eben McMillan

8 August 1921

It is true that the fish and game department has long had plans and other officials have put forth some ideas to establish bird sanctuaries, but the greatest difference of opinion seems to be on the use of the forest areas. Matters did not seem to differ until he stated that in the forest areas of the Fish and Game Service, which the service are continuing to deny hunter entry to while the fish and Game are working continually to get these areas open for hunting. The Fish and Game philosophy is that if one lives by the sword, one must also live by the gun, and it seems that areas up and let them in. The supervisor of the Angeles forest service who just died, was hard to work with on opening these fire closures, Lindquest said. Carl Lindquest said that there is no provision in the Angeles office of the Department of Fish and Game whereby a program of education regarding wildlife or some species can be carried on. He said that as far as he knew, no effort is made by the State Department of Fish and Game to develop an educational program to acquaint the public, and hunters in particular, with ecological responsibility. He did not say if he thought it something that should be done. He did add that A. S. Nathansen is in charge of public relations out of the Los Angeles office but knows little of his efforts or programs.

At 11:45 A.M. I saw a Condor coming from the Southwest quite high. This bird remained high, drifting to the west of us about one-half mile and crossed the valley north of Frazier Mountain in the area of Lake of the Woods, and after—
California Condor  
August 1964

Gaining the Tecuya Ridge turned east and went out of sight traveling northeastern behind Tecuya Mountain. This bird maintained a constant speed and kept to our west and north a good distance. Both Carl Lindquest, Deputy Sheriff Don and two air national guardsmen who were repairing a short wave radio transmitter that sets to the west of the forest service lookout on Frazier Mt. about 200 feet.

At 2:45 p.m. a condor was observed sailing low above the tree-tops on North Frazier Mountain. This bird was about one mile north of the Frazier Mt. lookout when first observed. It made several passes over the top of the yellow pines that cover the top of North Frazier Ridge, circling back and forth as it flew. After about two minutes of circling the tree-tops it then quickly gained altitude, sailed north across Cuddy Canyon, turned east when it came over Tecuya Ridge and was lost from sight while still sailing towards Lebec.

A new deputy sheriff came to believe Deputy Don at 1:30 p.m. The new deputy told the sheriff's officers do not attend to game violations, only reporting same to state game wardens should they find a game law being broken. Deputy sheriffs confine their activities to the crimes to human beings and search and rescue. In the activities of search and rescue are why the deputy sheriffs are in the Ingraham district of Ventura County and not in help...
California condor Eben McMillan
8 August 1964

I left the top of the Baja INT at 3:55 P.M. driving to Chupupaite Ranger Station and found Condor Observation Sheet, a copy of which I received, for the Santa Barbara Office and one to remain in Chupupaite Office. I was also told by the Office Personnel at Chupupaite that 12000 hunters were estimated to be in the Mt. Pinos District and that 65 Deer had been validated to this hour of 4:30 P.M. No injuries had been reported nor had any of the hunters found up as shot or missing.

At Lake of the Woods Check Station Don Hoots told me that most hunters had been in good humor, only one car full of five hunters having become abusive. I checked the tickets of 300 camp fire permit applicants and found only one name that did not have a Los Angeles address or Los Angeles area. The one missing stub was the one I had filled out at 7:30 A.M., as I arrived this morning.

Don Hoots would support a program that would demand more responsibility from all who come to the forest for recreation. We doubt that most hunters set any value from the experience they have while hunting deer in Mt. Pinos District.

I stopped at old Sandburg on Cold Ridge Route, as I drove to Antelope Valley to sleep. Philip Goodell had seen a Condor over Sandburg about 3:00 P.M. yesterday. We also sent in a report of sighting five fire Condor over Tujunga some months ago. Ian has probably received this report. One of the fire -
California Condor  Elsie McMillan  8 August 1964

was a black bird according to Goddell.

While at Philip Goddell's office I talked to Mary Stahl,
lookout on Liebre Mountain in Los Angeles County. The following
are records of Condor sightings she gave me.

12 July 1964 one Condor over Liebre Lookout
1 August 1964

June 4, 1964 one Condor over Warm Springs Lookout that is
located about 2 miles east and 7 miles north of Castaic
California, Los Angeles County. This is the furthest east
in Los Angeles County I have recent accurate record
of Condor being seen. Mrs. Stahl knows Condor and is
well aware of the White on Young Golden Eagles, having just
described to me tonight of the White dollar marks in the
wings of Young Golden Eagles as well as the White in
the tail.

I drove to a barley stubble field west or southwest of
Menach in west Antelope Valley cooked supper and put
my bed down for the night.
otra?
was up and had breakfast as the sun arose. Even though last evening was a bit overcast and windy from the west quarter, it was clear, calm and mild at daybreak. The dust columns of fine separate flocks of sheep could be seen on the stubble fields along the northwest slope of West Antelope Valley. I drove to one flock that was tended by a young Basque who had never met before. The sheep in his care belonged to a Joe Rooten. We knew of Condors, or ravens and hawks, but never heard of a Condor in the United States although he talked of something about big Condors in Spain. The next shepherd I talked with turned out to be Frank Mendiarre the man who watched the condor that appeared sick and remained in a small valley in Navajo Valley overnight. at the same time Jan watched it in the spring of 1963. He said that even though he had spent considerable time herding sheep in the Antelope Valley he had not seen another Condor than those he had seen in 1963 on Navajo Ranch. He is still working sheep for Sam Ashick.

I stopped at Old Lichte Ranch of Tejon Ranch Co. after leaving the sheep. Jack Abercrombie had seen no condor on Antelope side of Tehachapi Mountains since seeing the bird near Quail Lake which he had informed me about last spring. He did say that he and an Indian Cowboy from Tejon Ranch saw a 16 Condor pass out of House Canyon that is on west slope of Tehachapi Mts. and up Canyon about 4 miles from Old Tejon Ranch Headquarters. This
California Condor  Eben Mcllliam  9 August 1964

February, March or April of 1964. I saw the weather
was cold and stormy when he saw these birds.

I was at Lake of the Woods check station at
9:30 a.m. Don Hooks told me that good numbers of
hunters had come since well before daylight this morning
making up more in numbers than had left the area yesterday
evening. He said the figure of 12,000 hunters and 2,600
cars was still considered a good estimate.

Ed Green told me that 128 pounds, hog dressed, was the
largest buck that had been brought in so far. He also said
that most deer being killed were yearling bucks; most of
which were in poor shape, the average weight of which were
going at about 65 pounds field dressed.

I drove to Top of West Mt. Pinos and took up a watch for
condors there. Trail Bikes were working across North fork of
Lockwood creek on Sawmill and Grouse Mountain. Three Trail-Bikes
were seen bouncing along the trail that leads from Mt. Pinos
to Cerro Nordez Mountain. Four men on the three bikes were
all dressed in red, carried guns, and when not traveling on the
bikes, talked in loud voices to one another that could be heard
across the wide deep canyon that separated me from them.

Two young men from Los Angeles came, parked their small car
and biked about for one hour. Returning to their car, they told me
they were looking for condor.

At 11:30 p.m. I saw a condor circle briefly above the
point on East Mt. Pinos. This bird was very
vulnerable
to shooting as it circled a bit above this rocky outcrop
California Condor  

Eben McMillan  

9 August 1964

and out about 100 to 300 yards from the outcrop. This situation kept the bird in sight to anyone standing or seated, on any part of this rocky outcrop that extends along the ridge for about 300 yards. The pine forest on both sides, and Frazier Mountain, offer some protective shield for Condors flying over these areas, from hunters, who would have difficulty shooting at the birds far above the tree-tops. Here at this location, and on much of the areas of the top of butte peaks, rock outcrops such as was the case where I saw this Condor circling, give ample opportunity to anyone who might care to shoot at a Condor passing over these areas. This Condor joined some elevation and soared out above Hill Potrero in the direction of Brush Mountain to the north and was soon lost from sight.

I drove to Lake of the Woods checking station. Ed Green of Fish and Game told me hunters were leaving the area in large numbers by 3:00 p.m. at which time I arrived there. He said 103 deer had been validated and checked so far. He thought they would get about 150 deer checked in all. Using this estimate of 150 legal deer bagged the following figures now shape up.

12,000 hunters bagging 150 deer = 80 hunters for each deer harvested.
12,000 hunters on 225 sq. miles = one hunter per 12 acres.

Considering that much of this 225 sq. miles is far removed from roads and very rough terrain, both of which conspire to discourage hunters from using these areas, thus probably at least doubling the no. of hunters per 12 acres, or one hunter per every six acres.
California Condor: Eben Mclllan .9 Aug. 1964

Tom Hoots with whom I chatted before leaving Cuddy Canyon, thought most of the people who came to hunt in the Pines District would be of the sort that want most of what they get in the way of privileges to come to them with little effort. If this is the case then one can explain why these people will come and dodge one another's bullets, camp in campgrounds most of which are without sanitary facilities, are without water, have no cooking facilities, are dusty and dirty while the roads over which they must travel to get to these camps, after once leaving the payement, are rough, rocky, narrow and extremely dusty? One thing seems certain that being that a bad situation is building up here which if not faced now will lead to disorder, problems, humiliation and embarrassment to the forest service who are doing so much to encourage these hordes to come without any provision for educating them as to their responsibilities.

I stopped at San Emigdio Ranch enroute home. Neither Walter Slaytor or any one else on this property had seen a Condor lately. Slaytor gave me the following figures of cattle losses on San Emigdio within the beef or breeding herd. It ran at 3.8% percent for the season. This would not count calves that had died at birth or had died before they had been branded. Of 3720 Cows 83 were lost throughout the year, or an average of one Cows dying every four days. Dec., and Feb. were the months when most Cows died as this was in the middle of the Calving Season. 34 Cows died,
California Condor: Eben Erhlichman 9 August 1964

In December - 6 died in January and 15 in February - consider that the 672 cows on San Emigdio are weaned in Nov-Dec. We believe the Tejon American cows commence calving in Sept-Oct, Nov, and are mostly finished calving by the end of January. It is easy to see the ample supply of food that would be available for Condor in this south end of the San Joaquin valley during most of the winter months, and this all within easy range of Condor that might be roosting in the Specie Wildlife Areas. Consider this source of food from only two of the large ranches within the range of Condor and you are up with an impressive situation concerning food. Walter Clayton told me he is going to breed cattle entirely on San Emigdio ranch within the next three years. He plans on working up to 6000 brood cows. 5500 calves will offer a tremendous supply of food for Condor just in placental sacs alone.
At State Forestry Station 2 miles north of Coulterville I could find no one who knew anything about Condor. In Coulterville a called Walter Mclean on phone. He lives 6 mi. E. of Coulterville. His brother to Don Mclean of California and Game retired. Walter Mclean said he had never observed Condor in the Coulterville area. Several other old prospectors who were on the sidewalk in Coulterville were questioned, even though some knew of the Condor Sanctuary in Ventura County, and one had been following the Sierra Madre Ridge Road. Controversy here had ever heard of Condor being in the Coulterville area.

South of Coulterville I stopped at some cattle corrals where several ladies were preparing lunch for their men who were going with a herd of cattle soon. One of these ladies, a leathery person of 80 years all of which had been spent in the Bear Valley-Coulterville area claimed to know all about the outdoors of this area. She nor any of the other ladies had ever heard of anyone seeing Condor in their area.

At the U.S. Forest Service Station in Mariposa, where Ranger S.W. Liddicoatt was in charge I could find no one even mildly interested in my query for information about Condor. Upon stating the purpose of my visit to the young lady at the front desk, she immediately retired to a rear room from whence she soon returned with word that "no Condor were seen." I then queried, "were there someone about that might furnish me some information regarding possibility of there ever being a Condor in the Mariposa area. Actually I wanted to find out if anyone on the Rangers force knew what a Condor was. To my question the young...
California Condor - Eben Breslau - 31 Aug. 1964

The lady replied that they had no one who was interested in wildlife at that station who might help me and that it would be best if I go see the local Game warden.

Before leaving I tried to insist that my interest in Condor information was genuine and official and that I still would like to talk with the Ranger or one of his aids. This effort was to no avail and I ended up by asking for, and getting, the name of the Ranger in charge to be entered thus in my notes.
In response to a letter I had received on August 15th from a
valmore C. Lamarche, Jr., White Mountain Research Station, Big Pine,
California, I drove to this Research Station at 10:30 AM. Today
and met Mr. Lamarche who showed me the 35mm color slides
of a bird he took to be a condor, and which had been the
topic of the letter he wrote me. The object in the 35mm
Color slide he showed was very small, having been taken with
a 50mm lens while the bird was at a considerable height.
With the aid of a 20x magnifying glass it was nevertheless quite
evident the bird in the photograph, at least, was an immature
Golden Eagle. The long wedge shaped tail could be made out
clearly and a large area of white could be seen on the tail also.
In addition to the wedge shaped tail and the white at its base,
the wings were definitely that of a Golden Eagle. Positioned in a
flat slide that of all flight characteristics of the Golden Eagle resemble
the flat slide of a condor least of all. Upon questioning Mr.
Lamarche, a student of age characteristics in the Bristlecone Pines of
the area, it was evident to see he had little experience in observing
birds. I left photos of condor with him to put on the bulletin
board at the Research Station in order to encourage further
observation by the personnel here. All hands said they
would keep their eyes open and should they see birds that
matched my pictures they would get me immediate word.
28 August 1964

Mrs. Evelyn Fennsworth of Glenville called at 5:30 p.m. to say three adult and maybe five condors were at her place this evening. Mrs. Fennsworth said Turkey Buzzards had been conspicuous by their absence about her Glenville Ranch up until four or five days ago. She said then buzzards came there and were now plentiful around her place.
California condor  Eben McMillan  30 Aug. 1964

I telephoned Mrs. Farnsworth in Glenville at 6:30 p.m. She had seen 4 condors today, two of which she was sure were immature. Mrs. Farnsworth said one of their herd had died three days ago and today a bull died. Their herdsman Bill is cutting the carcasses open to make them available to condor.
California Condor  

Eben McDillman  

31 Aug. 1964

I telephoned the Furnsworths at 8:15 p.m. - SOTS. Furnsworth said she had Condor all over her place. She saw a Condor in one group on a hillside south of the Rock Creek Camp. That is south and east of her home. She later saw 3 Condors together. That could have been different birds. Visibility was very poor in the Glennville area and she could not age the birds she saw. Heavy winds blew and it rained lightly during the day in the Glennville area.

Tomorrow I will leave for Glennville as soon as we get home from Jess Ramsey funeral.

Mrs. Furnsworth said she had seen four Condors over her home in the morning. She felt there was a minimum of 12 Condors in her area today.
The hypothesis now turns to the question of whether the results obtained in the previous section are consistent with the model. It is hypothesized that the model accurately predicts the behavior of the system as observed in the experiments.

In conclusion, the model provides a reasonable explanation for the observed phenomena, and further experiments are recommended to verify the model's predictions.
At 6:35 AM, Fifty Two Turkey Vultures flew from roosting place on north slope of Canyon ½ miles NW of Tumamoc. 3 of band of 8 buzzed over our camp and sat in trees around knob when a dead Bull Camp. 7 miles North of Tumamoc, Arizona, and about 3½ miles North of our Camp. This was 35 minutes before sunrise. The morning was quite cool and damp, with little wind.

At 7:35 AM, 45 minutes after sunrise, the Condor left its roost on a small tree and flew low on a ridge. Then landed in a dead tree 300 yards east of the Bull Camp. As it landed, one could see the head was of a light orange color, with some dark feathers on the forehead. There was also a small crest at the base of the upper mandible that stuck up about ½ inch at least. It could have been a tuft of feathers or a growth of some sort, since it looked much like the top-knot of a turkey saddle. When not extended, much like a white head on a young male. In fact, the birds being so it could be raised in preening. From what I could see, the head and the upper mandible were sidewise preening. 

*Mr. Tumamoc, September 1904*

This Condor had dark defined billlines on upper bill. The eyes, and the top surface of pronunci, were deep grey.

*Figaro Tumamoc, September 1904*
California Condor  Eben McMillan  2 September 1964

The following notes are those of Evalyn Earsnworth which she handed to me today at her Ranch 2 miles south of Glenville, Kern Co. Cal.

All observations are from this Ranch property.

8/29/64  8:30 A.M. One roosting on small pine limb SW of Carcass, one feeding.

Flies across gulch into ground, later took off and lit in Oak SW of it.

Also one adult sunning wings in dead pine east of tank on Morrison Ridge.

4:45 P.M. four adults circling over barn, continued circling

and farther east until about over Cedar - Fulton Fork, then leveled off

straight toward Sankey Peak.

5:45 P.M. One young bird circling over barn with Buzzards.

About 6:30 P.M. roosting on beat Pine south of Carcass.

8:30 A.M. Two young (black heads and smudgy white) flew up from somewhere near Carcass. Both of these birds appear to

have more white under wings than the one seen 8/29 A.M.

7:00 P.M. One for sure roosting in Pines - possibly both.

3/6/64  2:15 P.M. One circling over barn.

2:30 P.M. One adult roosting in pine south of Carcass. Three

circling barn area. Light poor but think same two

young birds and two adults.

3:10 P.M. Nine feeding on dead calf on Dead Trap Ridge.

Heavy clouds make light bad but think 8 adults and

one young.

4:00 P.M. Three roosting in dead pine near calf.

Think the same family that appeared the first day. Two

definitely adults and one black headed with very little white under wings.
At dusk at least one roosting in pines south of the barn. Low clouds and rain made it difficult to see if there were others.

11:00 a.m. Three on barn + pine.

11:15 a.m. One on pine on Beartrap Ridge.

2:15 p.m. One adult flew down from a tree near barn towards hill where Boskacks feeding in orchard.

All of these observations made within a distance of one and one-half miles from Farnsworth Branch home.
Mrs. Fernworth came at 8:10 A.M. and took up South
of Rock Creek Camp and on top of Bear Rock Ridge
where she heard some of her hens feeding on the carcass
of a stillborn Doe that lay in the snow on the other
side of the big rock near the barn. This Doe was
completely cleaned and typical learners. It had been
completely cleaned

All bones were bled intact by the hawks and except for
a broken rib or two the original Columba beans in
Pine Nut whose weight and color both indicated
had been completely cleaned.

Mrs. Fernworth said she passed her hens were
about 1/3 Columba Berndt and they had been cleaning
comparable trouble with the Doe. In cleaning bones
through this in the area now being yearly. She
had three two Bulbs wheat as least three weeks one
of which lay 4/5 mile north of her barn and was now
published by the Corn and Beef and

Retrieving a cow begging on 2/3/64. She came that
the cow was still penned in the dead pine. The herd
was still running freely and the curlew on its face
was still visible. The morning was still cold and before
the morning the herd would pull the black 2/21
its neck up over its head in one only that part of
the head from the ear forward could be seen.
Except for the portion of the head all looked Black.

See margin,
The Sub-adult Condor left its perch in the dead pine at 4:43 A.M., flapping its wings and circling until about 1/2 mile to the west when it lost altitude and circled out over the valley, then flapping its wings and heading southwest toward the town of Ojai. While the Sub-adult flapped its wings and balanced itself, sub-adult condors were perched. This sub-adult condor was a reddish-orange color, but it is not nearly as large as the head of a full adult nor does it have the wattles and wrinkles that the head of a full adult has. The legs of the sub-adult are much smaller than those of the full adult condor. Of course, the white under the wings is no well-defined crescent seen in the sub-adult, as it is in the adult. The sub-adult's head is cleaner, with no blood spots on the back of the wings, but still not as clean as the adult's.

Bolting and hiking up trail from Furnsworth, born at 10:00 A.M., we soon heard toll of reader's condor in sub-adult plumage flaps from high, heading southwest, without hesitation. When we reached the Buck Concessions no signs of the Sub-adult that had just been seen could be seen.

Mrs. Furnsworth, with the aid of a large knife, had cut a slice in this Condor hide about one foot square on the back of the left quarter and below the various about 6 inches. The Buzzards and other scavengers were all feeding through this opening that was made —
California condor remaining—2 Dec., 1904
opened into the stomach cavity. No
feeding had been done through the vomer. The eyes
had been pushed back.
I had confidence in the cock when I saw
that some considerable amount of
inflammation was covering the
mouth. This made it difficult to
get him to swallow the small
amount of food that was
needed. Before he was
able to swallow, some
animals would
attempt to open the
mouth. Of coarse either condor can not
breathe and
from these processes the
are broken down and
decomposed which I
also noted.

What we tried to be the sub-adult condor that had left
near the Bull Caves earlier was seen circling with
several Buzzards to the southwest as though it had just
flown from a perch in the area. This condor circled
the area and passed from sight heading southeast at
10:30 A.M.

All seemed quiet at mid-day— at 3:10 P.M., a sub-adult
condor came in from the northwest. Passing low over
Bull Caves then continued on and after circling some
—out of sight—southeast high.
California Condor Blue McMillan
2 September 1969

At 5:15 I flew out from Campside to where Rock Access was to photograph a Black-Bellied Condor that Alldred had been watching with the telescope for some time. I took two shots. It circled up in an oak tree at 60 yards distance before it flew to another dead oak about 1/4 mile away. I got several shots of this bird as it flew into the light. The rugged light made it very difficult to get a good joint shot.

This condor turned out to be a Black-Bellied - Small Black Head - Brownish brown coloration with no wing bars above and dark muddly-white under the wings, and in perfect plumage.

Leaving the last dead oak, this condor flew down with 100 plus Beggards at 7:20 P.M. and lit in P. on a south-facing hill at the southwest of our Camp 1/4 mile.

At 10 minutes after sunset the Black Condor flew from Pines and dropped down on Oak in Canyon where the dead Oak was. One of these cedars, one that had been hollowed out, the feet of 3-4 large cedars, which manner Beggards and probably some Condor had fed, Cave 60 feet from where the Black condor lit. At 7:21 this Black Condor lumed down out of sight where the Cave was. At 7:40 P.M., after feeding 19 minutes, the Black Condor flew up from where the Cave was and easily flew, in the gathering dusk, along north facing hill to a pine on which it perched on the very top top. At 7:42 the Black Condor lit the tree and flew 200 yards east and died in the top of...
another pine where it seemed I have considerably trouble
leaving in order to reach it chose. Two
minutes later I found this young

stub twice the size of the tree which I could
do tell the gathering darkness.

Vultures and the condor were not for

time after dark. I have, on occasion, found it

of being flapping but think it was Vultures
flapping in one another.
California Condor - Ken McMillan

The Black Condor. That flew into the lower pine grove late last night could not be expected this morning. I wished to chase the Black Condor that flew from the upper pine grove. I had wanted and had kept aside for just such an occasion. I now proceeded to the Black Condon that stunted in the lower glade. (About 150 yds. from the lower to a elevation 100 feet above the lower pine grove of 45 feet above the lower pine grove.

At 8:00 A.M. the Black Condor flew south towards the pine grove of 45 feet above the lower pine grove of 45 feet above the lower pine grove. It was decided to follow the Black Condor, and to also monitor the lower pine grove. The Black Condor was monitored closely, and the lower pine grove was monitored closely also. The Black Condor continued south along a ridge near the lower pine grove. There was considerable concern with the monitoring of the Black Condor, but I returned to the company place at 9:30 A.M.
At 9:35 A.M. the Black Vulture was seen in the top of our sky. The carcass of the Great Curlew 1 was dragged from the dead pit. At 9:36 a sub-adult flew in from a high elevation and "drisc"ed into the dead pit. It screeched several times and then sat down. It then left and landed under a white oak of any sort on the eastern side of the property. The Sub-adult has been seen several times this morning.

The Sub-adult opened and spread its wings at
9:37 A.M. At 9:37 A.M. it took flight and circled the area several times. It was last seen on the western side of the property.

At 9:38 A.M. the Sub-adult then took flight and circled the area several times. It was last seen on the western side of the property.

At 9:42 A.M. the Sub-adult circled the area several times. It was last seen on the western side of the property.

At 9:44 A.M. the Sub-adult circled the area several times. It was last seen on the western side of the property.
The sub-adult Condor that sat in the Cedars near where the Wolf Condor lay- in the same level it was yet
that had the protrusion on its head near the base of the upper mandible (see margin) and the small Joyce in the
neck feathers.

The sub-adult was given more food, and at
10:30 A.M. I left Adey to keep watch when this
Condor completed feeding as well as to keep an eye on
The Black Wolf that had, at 10:30 shown from one
across from us and sit in another pine that stood
about 30' from the mouth of some caves and in
another cleft from the one the same 10' to it. I followed
towards the cave entrance to one of 1 curved just a
color shant of the sub-adult Condor there had lit-
In the body, the body moved back and came back.

Approaching the body movements from the sea, I got the current in the face. The sea was more than 1000, and the waves were the basis of the waves were never as before. The sea had come out. After a 20 minute wait, several birds were

Following them about, two minutes later, I noticed near the tree-top, passed within a moment, a butterfly, and passed over it without looking me. I noticed in the same moment, a butterfly was feeding. As I walked close, they flew into nearby trees. This was a good news. I kept back and let them.

I was glad to be in the air. I could fly. The sky was wide and I felt free. The scene was a wonder to me. This morning,

Following towards was coming, a sense of what I took to have the folk affect. I can, and with threw them. The folk-consciousness of the valley high, from the

I flew to the Gulf, conscious at 10:20, flew up from deep and at 10:30, flew up (35 minutes landing time), landed somewhere at the side. The blackness was present, it ended after 20 minutes later it left. pain
California Condor (Gymnogyps californianus) 3 September 1944

and circled high over the area, then dropped in on
about six miles out the same trail. One more left
before and dropped in to pick one drop-out. At
11:12 A.M. came across one of the remaining
condors. We dropped down and circled around
and joined the six, and
dropped somewhat and
about 100 feet below at 11:12 A.M. They had
not been seen another time. We were forced to
abandon the search before leaving out
of sight in the brush below.

Left home at 11:45 A.M.
California Condor: Elen McDowell
6 Sept. 1964

At 2:30 p.m. today Gregory saw two Condors in the Palo Prieta Canyon, 1/2 miles southeast of the Red Hatfield Adobe. He said their heads showed white under the feathers, but they were beyond the distance where he could see the color of the heads.

Gregory said the two Condors appeared to come up from the middle canyon that comes in from the north end of the main canyon at this point. They circled several times, then headed towards the distance point.
California Condor  Edmund McMillian  7 Sept. 1964

At 12:30 p.m. Alden Miller, Jan and I drove up Palo Pinto Canyon to see if the condor Gregory Jossimillan had observed yesterday might have returned. We saw only Red-Tailed Hawks.

Mrs. Farnsworth phoned collect from Glenville saying that she had observed what she took to be an adult condor fly in from the southeast above her buildings and land in an area where Bull Carcass is one-quarter mile northwest of her barn. She also added that there were unusually large numbers of Turkey Vultures concentrating in the area of her Ranch Headquarters.
California Condor

Eden McMillan
8 September 1964

Gilbert Davies of Cholame, who lives about two and one half miles
northeast of my home, phoned today to tell me he had observed a Condor
fly from the roadside as he passed between his home and Cholame. He
also stated he had seen a condor about two weeks ago in Kings Canyon
that would be one mile northwest of his house. I know that Gilbert
Davies had seen condor before and could identify them but somehow
his description of this condor he saw today did not seem to fit.
After some discussion Gilbert Davies mentioned how the bird he saw
today showed white in its wings and also some white in the tail.
He said the white in the tail was quite pronounced as the bird
flew from the roadside allowing a good view of the upper portion
of the tail. He mentioned the white on the tail being in the form of a
V. This was sufficient evidence that even though Gilbert Davies
knows condor and what they look like and could identify them;
he does not know what a young Golden Eagle looks like and
is mistaking young Eagles to be condor.

I think one can use this statement as a rule most people
who know condor will recognize them when seen and not
mistake them for their cousins. As to other have many people
who see immature Golden Eagles will mistake them for Condor.
Gilbert Davies gave me to understand that the condor he saw
today must have been a young one for if finish hot big as were
others he had seen feeding on a dead bull several years ago. He
said this condor would be little larger than an Eagle.
A letter from H. Elliott Mcclure of Box 6119, Yonago, APO 323, US Forces, Tokyo, Japan, with photographs of condor he had taken on April 23, 1964 at the Profer Ranch at Rancheria, about 15 miles East of Bakersfield, Kern Co., and also notes of condor observations he had made in Kern County.

The condor records that I have are as follows: On April 10, Mr. Martin (I do not have his initials) who lived near Granite Station saw 20-25 condors on his ranch above Granite Station. He wrote to the "Californian" (Bakersfield) about it. The editor of the "Californian" contacted me on April 13 and printed a story on April 15. Mr. Profer on the ranch area called me about 14 condors on his place on April 15. We went up at 2 P.M. and saw two. We went again on April 16 and saw only one. On April 23 when the photos were taken there were six in the ranch area when we arrived about 9:00 A.M. and Mr. Profer had seen 26 the day before. On April 17 I met Mr. Martin at Edna Williams' place and we discussed the birds. His ranch is several miles north of the Profer place. His largest count was 32 at 2:20 P.M. on his place on April 26. The birds were apparently feeding on dead animals at both ranches where people were watching but protecting them. After this date they moved away and I have no further reports of them.

I must say that seeing these magnificent birds and marveling at their flight control by manipulating their primaries was the greatest thrill of my three years in Kern County.

I did not see any sick or dead condors but there were reports of them in newspapers of this time and I remember that one was killed by making contact with high-tension wires as it soared through them. H. Elliott Mcclure
I was instructed by telephone, today, by Earl Kalal, Agricultural Commissioner of San Luis Obispo County, that some squirrel poisoning was done in San Luis Obispo County in 1964 about mid-August and that it had started sometime in April. Mr. Kalal also informed me that Compound 1080 was first used extensively as a squirrel poison in S.L.O. County in 1947. Thallium Sulfate had been used from 1929 to 1947. Mr. Kalal also told me that Compound 1080 is relatively tasteless and odorless while possessing a high rate of toxicity and that although there are antidotes for this poison, provided such is applied soon enough after the poison has been taken, success of Counteractants are not predictable once a lethal dosage of 1080 has been ingested.

Mr. Kalal also informed me that his field personnel have no orders from him to limit the application of Compound 1080 poison to active ground squirrel burrows and not apply it with the thought of its purpose to be killing kangaroo rats. He said that undoubtedly considerable 1080 poisoned grain is thrown where kangaroo rats can use it. He said this is not the policy of his office to encourage the use of Compound 1080 treated grain for Rats but their Ground squirrels only are the target species.

Mr. Kalal stated that both Compound 1080 and Thallium Sulfate are restricted for use by the general public. He thought these both poisons highly desirable...
secondary poisoning and residual toxicity was the main reason their use has been denied the public at large.
California Condor

In a and 2 were in Taft, Kern County at 1:00 p.m. We chatted with Robert Marshall, manager, Crocker Angelo National Bank who in the process of telling us of condor observations stated Bert Sneed on had seen 45 condor in years past and he had observed 25 condor some years back himself.

We met Bob Tays, of Taft, who is a Boy scout Leader, and who told us of seeing a dead condor about 1961 that lay at the base of a small tree, near a hunters camp in a canyon above hill Potrero on the north side of mountains in Kern County.

Mr. Tays said that when he first saw this condor carcass it was not dead and that it showed a large bullet hole through the breast. He understood a hunter had reported this carcass first to Game Warden Bob Fischer of Taft who had told Mr. Tays of its whereabouts. Tays also took us to the home of his parents and produced the feathers (wing secondary) he had taken from this bird which he had planned to take with him when he went to the hill Potrero location. His plans were to make an Indian costume from the feathers. The odor of putrefaction discouraged him from transporting the carcass.

We drove to Apache Potrero and at the ranch of Bertram Sneed on Jr. met Mrs. Sneed on and his son Richard. Bert Sneed on Jr. told us of seeing 12 condor some time back the exact date of which he had furnished for some time ago. He mentioned this observation by telling us of coming upon three birds that were perched on fence posts and did not attract their attention. He and his son Richard, that is, until they flushed these three condor—
California condor  Eben McMillan  11 September 1964

from their respective fence posts and were it not that they
saw the white under the wings of these three birds they would
not have believed them to be condors for they were small and
not nearly as large as the 9 Condor that flew from
beyond, and around a hill, from where these birds were at.
Mr. Snedden felt sure they must have been young birds due
not only to their small size, but also to the fact that two
of them had black heads. Richard Snedden who is
about 16 years old also commented on the small size
of these three birds and even used the term little
in their description.

Both Bertram Jr. and his son Richard Snedden both
told us of seeing Mexican Eagles commonly in the
area of their ranch and mentioned that a neighbor of
theirs had only lately observed one of these Eagles
pick up a young fawn and as it ran down a hill,
carry the fawn aloft and drop it. He also mentioned
an incident of years past where a Mexican Eagle had
picked up a dog belonging to his brother and carried
it aloft before dropping it to the ground evidently unhurt.
Bertram Snedden Jr. also told us he had never observed a Buzzard
west of the San Emigdio Ranch and upon further discussion
repeated he had never seen Buzzards on his ranch. He has
seen crows, he said.

The manner of his seeing the 60 plus Condors in Santiago
canyon in November was brought up for review and after
considerable discussion he was questioned about his —
acceptance of a conclusion that there could have been some other species of bird involved in this observation and that this could be noted with his recognition. Mr. Snedden flatly refused any such consideration and stated that he knew the declaration of such an observation would be considered most unusual and at the time, with this in mind, had counted the concentration of condor about three times, each time coming up with a number between 60 and 65 birds that were in two separate flocks circling the area. His story was basically the same as he had given us previously and he again described how he had come upon this first flock that were at a cow carcass from which they flew and circled while he was doing the counting. Today he stated this first flock to be something over 20 birds. It was only after he had finished counting this first flock that he looked beyond about the quarter mile and saw the air literally filled with condor beyond. Mr. Snedden mentioned counting this group but did not give the figures on its amount. He did state that even though other species of birds were in the air, anything he was not sure was a condor, were disregarded and not counted. He mentioned counting the group three times. Mr. Snedden stated he firmly believed the count of between 60 and 65 condor that were in these two flocks to be a conservative figure and that if wrong it would be under estimated and not over. At Ian’s suggestion and description of Swainson’s hawks that might have been seen and mistaken for condor, Mr. Snedden said he knew of Swainson’s hawks.
There is not the slightest doubt in my mind that Bartram Shedd Ten saw a large group of birds and that he counted them conservatively, where I am differing with Mr. Shedd Ten in his qualifications as identity sources. Today his mention of recognizing three of 12 condors as young birds on the grounds that they were not near as large as the other big condor he and his son saw a few moments later, that these three young condor were perched on fence posts which for condor would be very unlikely. While being shown a well worn primary wing feather that the Sheddens had picked up near the carcass of an aborted calf this fall the younger Shedd Ten questioned whether a feather being that large having come from a bird as small as three young they had seen on the fence posts. He doubted those birds could have possessed feathers of its size. I feel sure Shedd Ten saw birds other than condor here and was unable to recognize their not being condor.

The fact that Shedd Ten would not know the proper name of Golden Eagles and would harbor the thought that an Eagle could carry aloft a farm or a dog - That he has never observed Buzzards on his ranch when Dan Garcia has told me last May, Is that many Buzzards followed Squirrel Poisoning Operations on the Hudson Ranch that is contiguous to the Shedd Ten Ranch - That Crows are common in his place while Ravens are the Native Large Corvids of this area. That neither Bert Shedd Ten or his son knew of Red-Tailed Hawks, or other hawks other than -
Swinson’s handler, which he claims to have seen in large numbers sitting on the ground, for the first time, about 5 or 6 years ago, and that he admitted not knowing adult from juvenile condor until Jan acquainted him with the differences in these two species last year; hence the fact 20 plus condor were counted first when he first saw the 50 plus condor in November and near the remaining flock had to be made up of 40 plus condor which Swin in what ever was counting large flocks of wheeling and milling birds would be next to impossible especially if the two flocks were only one-quarter mile apart which distance could not well separate Two large flocks of wheeling condor creates a situation that prevents my accepting his observation of 60 plus condor as correct. As Carl Koford stated when told of this observation "I wouldn't believe it if I had seen it myself."

Sighting at Bertram Sheldon II, and Richard Sheldon also were present and counted the birds was made in Santiago Canyon on 33 condor. Where all three of the above observers agreed on the number of condor think swung up out of the canyon as 33 condor is acceptable on the grounds all three observers agreed on this number and that this count was made with members of the True observers scattered at separate locations within plain sight of this gathering of condor.
Tom Ingersall, employee of U.S. Forest Service who is camped at Apache Saddle Saddle between Abel and Brush Mountains, described to us and showed us a photograph of, the flock of 20 condors that he and his brother observed on the San Emigdio Ridge that runs southeast from Brush Mountain. The black and white photo he showed us included 5 specks that undoubtedly were condor. These condors were seen on August 18, 1962.

Two representatives of the U.S. Forest Service who had gone on top of Mt. Abel on 18 August 1962 to check on lightning strikes of the previous night, saw 8 condors that circled low over them. Tom will be getting this report from the Forest Service.

Tom Ingersall mentioned that a new directive had just come to his attention that now makes it imperative that all condor sightings be turned in immediately following the incident and that he needs to the end of the year and be turned in with an annual report as has been the case in the past.

Tom Ingersall had heard that Bert Madden had seen 20 condors sometime in the past several years.

Even though Tom Ingersall is well acquainted with Bob Fischer, Game Warden from Taft, he had never been told of the Dead Condor carcass behind Mill Pottery, by him.

Peter Night, employee of the U.S. Forest Service, who is camped at Apache Saddle described how he has been—
Fire in
Condor
Sanctuary

California Condor  Eben McMillon  11 September 1964
rushed to the Sespe Valley to a heliport on the Sespe
Condor sanctuary corridor road on Sunday afternoon, the
same evening the fire broke out. At 5:00 a.m., the
following morning he was landed inside the fire area by
helicopter at total of 110 plus men were already in and
fighting this fire. 600 men were on the fire line before it
was brought under control by Tuesday evening. All
men and equipment were flown in by helicopter. Several
bomber tanker planes dumped material in this fire.
The fire, before controlled, burned 350 acres between
Beal Heaven and the West fork of the Sespe River,
all within the Sespe Wildlife area. When finally brought
under control it had burned west to the border of the
Condor refuge on ridge east of Santa Paula Canyon

This evening at Dusk, he stopped at the ceramic
factory of Mr. and Mrs. Emerson on Apache Ridge
between Apache Saddle and Grocer Grade Highway. They had
just returned from being in Bakersfield. Returning home
about 6:15 P.M., they mentioned seeing an adult
Condor that passed low over their car on the
ridge north of the head of Ballanger Canyon,
I am and I were enroute to Glennville, Kern County at 3:05 p.m. after I had received word from Evelyn Farnsworth at 2:00 p.m. that she had observed 15 condors this afternoon feeding on the carcass of a drop calf near her home.

We arrived at Farnsworth's Ranch at 5:00 p.m. and were immediately on our way towards the back part of her ranch with her leading, in her jeep. As we passed above her barn two condors were noted circling with a flock of 200 plus turkey vultures above the "Bone Yard," the ditch where she has all of the cows or other cattle that die near her home. Stopping at the roadside east of Farnsworth home one mile we were in the act of loading our cameras and Binoculars into her jeep for a ride into rough country where she was to show us the exact spot where many condors had fed on the drop calf. When we saw two adult condors coming from the southeast, high in fleet glide as though they had been traveling thusly for a good distance. After these two adults had passed on northwest we proceeded with Mrs. Farnsworth to within 100 yards of a dead pine (Pinus Subamiana) tree in which sat a sub-adult condor on a limb not larger than 1 1/2 inches in diameter while under this tree the grass was well trampled where condors had fed on a drop calf. We did not go further as the sub-adult bird remained perched in the late evening light and allowed me to take many extrachromatex 35mm. Photos of it, while it practically disregarded our presence, preening its feathers, raising and lowering its head, defecating, sitting down on the limb with its body next to the limb and its legs fully bent and biting at twigs which it would take in its beak and twist as if trying to break it - all this while -
we continued talking in moderate tones that the bird could have surely heard. We also moved about in the jeep that made considerable noise when our feet scraped the tin floor of the body of our Hummer. Our feet banged against the tin side.

The above sub-adult Condor was brownish in color and lacked the ashy sheen of adult plumage on the back, especially on the upper parts of the wing secondaries and primaries. The head was a pinkish red with a dark band of furry fuzz across the forehead. The upper mandible did not appear to be as ivory colored as is the case with an adult, and the head was not as broad as is that of the full adult. Also, the definite and clearly defined white line on the back of the wings was missing on this bird and a full adult Condor. We have noted an ill-defined line was evident—see below.

---

The left side bird perched on this limb at sunset—200 plus Turkeys below pent fire in Canyon at dusk.
California Condor    Eden McDermott     13 September 1934

Mr. and Mrs. Farnsworth came to our camp at dusk and visited about condors. Mrs. Farnsworth gave us the following notes she had taken of observations of the last few days:

9/11/64 3:00 A.M. One circling Edna's Mt. south of Rock Creek.

9/11/64 3:15 P.M. One circling at barn. Sure there were different birds.

9/12/64 8:45 A.M. A roosting in pine east of "Bone Yard." (Bone Yard is dumping place for cattle that die near Farnsworth home and is about ¼ mile east of the house.)

9:35 A.M. Two adults circling over Bear Trap Ridge (this is about 1½ miles southeast of Farnsworth home.) A.M.

3:30 P.M. Three circling over barn at 10-20 minute intervals, one or two more appear until at 5:00 P.M. there were nine in sight. The one all black bird was here and possibly two sub-adults, one with a definite notch on ½ of right wing near to body.

9/12/64-9:25 A.M. Two circling with Buzzards over bent pine.

9:30 A.M. Three more circling over take off at road to water tank on Morrison Ridge. These joined by others from NE until nine in sight, but too high to identify.

9:40 A.M. Six sitting in dead pine over calf carcass south of the low water trough. One black headed bird with only suggestion of white under wings. One sub-adult with more white and pinkish grey head.

9:45 A.M. One more joined circling birds making...
Betica Ciekcy sighs, "Dear diltau |Z September (gy

4:15 pm - Eight circling Edna's mountain.
4:15 pm - Eight circling. Down Cedar Creek from Eden's right.
4:15 pm - Two over burn.

9:45 a.m. Sat.

fifteen in sight in small area near Gulf Carancas.
3:30 p.m. - Two circling Edna's mountain.
4:15 p.m. - Eight circling down Cedar Creek from Eden's right.
4:15 p.m. - Two over burn.

The aircraft was also found at 9 a.m. Secondary
aira features that the bird circled up near the Gulf
Carancas, that lay under the dead pine, north of
Lower Through. At about three and one-half miles, down-

later, another one was found.
California Condor
Eben McMillan
14 September 1964

The 200 plus Turkey Vultures left their roosts at 6:25 A.M., at least 30 minutes before sunrise, and scattered about the area, some lighting near carcasses at "Bone Yard" while most settled in treetops in the vicinity of carcasses with a few moved across valley and in treetops near where Old Bull Carcass lays 1/4 mile north of Farnsworth Barn. No Condors among them. June and I tackled to carcasses at Bone Yard. Six adult carcasses are there now that appear to have been dropped there this fall, while at least two young droppings have been added to the lot since Glady and I were here on September 1-1964. I photographed two black headed immature Turkey Vultures and also two dirty reddish headed Turkey Vultures that I took to be Varhings. Also photo of black headed adult.

Conway Mrs. Farnsworth 9:10 A.M. and took us in her Jeep towards the east where the sub-adult was sitting in the dead pine we had left last night. As we turned off the public road and started up Morrison Ridge, westward, the adult Condor came from east and circled some us quite high. As I photographed this bird another Condor was noted circling south of us near the rocky SE slope of Morrison Ridge below the lower water trough.

Photographed this bird also as a means of identification later on. We then drove to dead pine and noted a Condor perched on the opposite side of the tree on a lowering limb, from where we left the sub-adult last evening. I attempted to photograph this bird as it flew...
but it stayed so near the morning sun that I did not waste any film on it.

We drove to area under bent pine and following a track
where the dead calf carcass had been dragged down the
steep hill southward from the position under the bent pine
where Mrs. Turnsworth had noted it. Yesterday morning, she
found this carcass completely cleaned of all meat and
trapped inside 200 and left 200 yards from its
original position in the Canyon below. During the course
of this dragging the Condors had pulled it through
a dead tree, under an oak bush, hence down the
bottom of a steep defile through thick, dry wild oats
to the bottom where it was found. While we were
investigating the calf carcass another Condor flew in making
four birds in the air at once, one of which was
a sub-adult, probably the bird we saw perched in the tree last
evening. This sub-adult in flight had a strong gap
in the Cantor of the right wing (check this with photo).
Also the first bird we saw this morning had two
moderate gaps in the left wing secondaries and a slight
gap in right wing 3/4 way out from body. See below—

1st bird

Sub-adult-

4th bird
Mrs. Farnsworth drove 25 miles east of Rock Complex where she pointed out two cow carcasses that had been dead less than two weeks, neither of which had been eaten on by turkey vultures or condor. We returned to our camp 200+ yards east of Farnsworth Home at 10:20 a.m.

Two adult condors flew northwest past "Bone Yard" at 11:40 a.m. and continued onward, slowly and high, until out of sight. The turkey vultures were much thinned by 12:00 noon, only 25 or so being seen about, but at 12:13 p.m. only 25 or so were seen about. We left for Springville at 12:15 p.m. arrive in Springville at 1:45 p.m. Where we visited with Mr. Frank, who works at county hospital in Springville and who, with his wife, is a very ardent condor watcher. From our conversation with Mr. Frank we found that his wife keeps records for Audubon field notes and sends them in to Mr. Chase in Berkeley. It was through these notes and records that Alden Miller had notified us of her whereabouts and that she had been observing Condors.

We drove to the home and hunting furs, a middle aged lady who was born and raised in the Springville area, received information on the condor sighting records she had already mailed to us. The record of a Condor that Jan received some time ago from Warden Bob Fischer of Tufa, whereby he had been a member of a group who had observed the 20 plus-
(23 reported by Warden Fischer - 22 by the Springville newspaper and 21 by another. Warden who was in the same car as was Warden Fischer) is acceptable due to the fact that several people were present and made counts of 20 or more condor.

Mrs. [name] told us of seeing two condors that flew from perches in Redwood trees on 500 Peak within the Tule River Indian Reservation and of seeing them circling about this area on separate occasions. This is not far from where the Condor Nest was located in the Redwood tree in 1950. It is significant that these people always saw two condors together in this area—
California Condor

Eben B. M. Varnum

9 September 1964

A letter from Mrs. Evalyn Farnsworth dated 9/17/64 reads as follows:

This is the Condor Activity since you left.

9/4/64 2:45 PM: one circling with buzzards over burn
9/5/64 7:50 AM: one with a notch next to body on left
wing came from SE over south slope of Big Hill, circled over carcass of cow east of Rock Corral
9/6/64 3:40 PM: one circling over Edna Mountain.

5:30 PM: one circling with buzzards over burn
9/7/64 2:20 PM: one came up from back side of the peak high peak of the Morrison Ridge south of the Water Tank.

You should see the way the birds cleaned the bull carcass; apparently the "swatch" on the
ham was ideal for they cleaned the entire carcass, leaving the skin over the bones with only a few holes in it.

The buzzards have been leaving in small groups ever since you were here. Saw two interesting things today. At about 2 PM, saw a group of about 27 coming from up Linn's Valley sailing high and level going south. They passed quite close to a group of "resident buzzards" that were circling pretty high but they didn't mix at all.

The last before sundown I saw about 50 more sailing straight from the west (traveling like the migrating groups do) and joined the local group in the pines. At the same time a group of around a hundred was spiraling off in the Southbridge area. They also leveled off and joined the group here and are roosting in the pines tonight. Probably most of them will land tomorrow.
The following are figures I was given today over the telephone by Mr. Earl Kalal, San Luis Obispo County Agricultural Commissioner, regarding the amount of compound 1080 poison bait placed out for ground squirrels within the county.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Pounds of 1080 Poison Used</th>
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<tr>
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<td>12,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1946</td>
<td>75,946</td>
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<tr>
<td>1947</td>
<td>61,086</td>
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<tr>
<td>1948</td>
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<td>16,148</td>
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<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>44,692</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1962</td>
<td>38,192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1963</td>
<td>42,931</td>
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1959 - 13,375 pounds of compound 1080 poison on plague area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Pounds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>1,330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>18,120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1962</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1963</td>
<td>15,758</td>
</tr>
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</table>

1945 was the first year compound 1080 treated grain was put out for California ground squirrels (Citellus Bachei) in S.L.O. County.

The plague area in which squirrels are poisoned with 1080 treated grain is designated by the Public Health Service of California.
A dense smog filled the San Joaquin Valley as Gladys and I drove towards Frazier Mountain. The desert situation near Blackwells Corner is increasing in size. In the development of a desert there must be a starting point. Blackwells Corner has now grown out of the desert starting stage. It is a temporary desert, at least now.

We climbed above the smog at Lebec. The Cuddy Canyon from Frazier Park upwards was clear and cool. At Chupanopate Ranger Station I met Ranger Gary Plisco in the main office, he was chatting with another forest service man and seemed disinterested in Condor. We did divert his attention by way for one moment and stated he had seen 21 Condor when he was on the Santa Barbara fire. When I asked him the date he said, "Let's see, it was one of those days of thick fog." He thought it was about 27 September, just past noon, on Romero Peak behind Santa Barbara. The Condor circled above him for about 15 minutes before they left for the Ojai area. Plisco said he and two other men saw them. Obviously busy with other matters of more import Mr. Plisco remained disinterested so I took leave of his office and drove to lookout on top of Frazier Mountain, which is still manned by Mr. and Mrs. Upham.

We had been at lookout on Frazier Mountain only about 10 minutes when a Condor circled up out of the deep canyon northeast of the lookout, rising as much as 500 feet to each circle and was soon well above the last Frazier Ridge where it remained in the area for 10 minutes.
California Condor

Edwin McMillan

1 October 1931

Drifting along ridge of North Frazier and then returning to drop into deep canyon from whence it was born. Was last seen dropping into this canyon at 10:45 AM.

Mr. Upham is a survey, Big-Belted Man, who profess to know much of Condor. He said they see Condor from their tower most every day. No one has come to the top of Frazier Mountain looking for Condor since the Uphams came here in mid-July 1929. Mr. Upham, in answer to my question if conversation is ever carried on over their communication system regarding Condor with other lookouts, I meant, stated that such trivial matters is not allowed, 'When if we were talking about Condor and a fire broke out, or what if some workman was hurt in a wreck and the line was busy with our talking about birds, we would lose our jobs,' he stated. He said neither he nor his wife particularly look for Condor. The only use they see is if one happens to come by in full sight from within the tower.

As Mr. Upham and I were watching the formerly mentioned Condor as it was sailing along the north slope of Frazier Mountain about one mile from the lookout tower, when he made an estimate of the Condors distance that has a bearing on the degree of error these people are normally guilty of in assessing distances Condor are away, in their reports. He said the bird was about over the town of Frazier Park which would have been 3 1/2 miles distance while only a few seconds before I had noted this bird dip below tall trees on North Frazier Mt. But the bird being between us and the trees and not more than 1 mile away, Mr. Upham said they -
Calvinova condor  Ebenichillau  1 October 1964

had no need of talking to the lookout on Thorn Point about the
presence of condor there for he could make out condors over that
lookout station from his Frazier Mt. station with the aid of binoc-
ulars. I could scarcely see the Thorn Point Lookout station with
my 7 power glasses from Frazier Mt. lookout. The air line distance
between Frazier Mt. lookout and Thorn Point is about 12 miles. I could not
see a condor at that distance with the 20 power scope. So most of the
time when these lookout records mention a condor over a certain
area some distance away it is a good bet the bird is less than
two miles away.

Mr. Upham said a Mr. Vaugn who at one time manned the
lookout on Thorn Point and was now gone out a paper of some
sort from the town of Frazier Park. He told him, in his own right,
that condors used to nest in the big while cliffs north and west
of Thorn Point lookout. Vaughn told him he used to see
condor go into the cliffs in that area. Upham knows
condor have nests there and also knows Golden Eagles and Red Tail
Hawks.

Returning down from top of Frazier Mountain we met two
men from the Air National Guard who claim to have seen Condor
on both Frazier Mountain where they have Radio Transmitter and
Blue Ridge lookout in Tulare County. They had not heard of
condors from other Transmitter stations they service in
the mountains east of the Los Angeles Basin.

Stopping at Ocehupaie Ranger Station I found Ranger
Gary Peterson strongly silent and reticent to re-discuss
the sighting in September 27 when he was to have seen —
21 Condors on Romero Peak during the Santa Barbara fire. What reason he would have given for falling silent on this observation I have no idea other than he realized he was lying and that it given further information he would become more deeply implicated. Instead he told me of an instance when he and supervisor Hanson had observed 7 Condors on 17 August 1964 near the parking space at the end of the Blacktop Road going on to top of Mt. Pinos. He said these condors appeared to come out from under the trees just north of this large parking area from where they had been feeding on a Deer. When asked if they had seen the deer the condor said he did not, but that it had to be a deer as they would be feeding on nothing else there. He said the seven condors flew low about their position for several minutes before they left... It was here that Simpson attempted to influence the into thinking the deer hunters on the Mt. Pinos district actually were good things for condors in that they leave so many partially shot deer in the woods that condors have an ample supply of food. He said that illegal were killed and brought in to the Chuparosa Ranger Station in the first weekend of the Deer season in 1964. He thought many more would be left in the woods that were never recorded.

I said that it would be nice if hunters would not shoot the Condor when they came to feed on the Deer. To this Simpson said, "Oh, I don't think they would shoot a Condor."

This just after he had admitted hunters had shot 8 illegal deer.
While I was in the office discussing promoting a ski lift on Mount kiamis, he said they were trying to get someone interested in a ski lift there. Obviously, a great part of the forest is directed towards promoting public use of this area.

The question of deer hunters by glider showed strong evidence of sympathy for anything that will bring more people into his area. Ranger Williams, who proceeded glider at Chupahwape, was the only district ranger we have seen that felt people should be kept from using the public lands as much as possible unless their activities are destructive in any way.

22 September 1964: Tomboots & us forest service saw 2 condors on Tuleya Ridge.

21 August 1964: Tomboots saw 6 condors above mill pond, on north side of Kiamis. Three were watching ladies from Los Angeles whom Tomboots told later in the day, of seeing the six condors near the Top of Kiamis, and claimed to have seen 11 condors in one flock and 8 condors in another flock. I would be very much inclined to think these ladies saw the same condors on the second sighting.

Following is the list of observations of condors the Uphams have made since 6 September 1964:

9/6/64 - 12:10 --- / Flying directly over lookout
9/7/64 - 09:35 --- / Climbing over east toward Wast, July.
9/8/64 - 18:20 --- / Flying over north hillside.
California condor  EbenFriendly 1 October 1969
9/8/69 --- 16:30 --- 1 --- Low over Frazier L.A.
9/26/69 --- 10:00 --- 1 --- Over Sycamore Canyon
9/2/69 --- 10:00 --- 1 --- Over Frazier L.A.
9/4/69 --- 15:10 --- 1 --- Cirlcling over Lockwood area.
9/8/69 --- 14:00 --- 1 --- Over Lockwood L.A.
9/23/69 --- 11:20 --- 2 --- Flying over Matey Canyon
9/25/69 --- 10:50 --- 1 --- Over Lebec
9/11/69 --- 19:45 --- 1 --- Over Lost Frazier
9/26/69 --- 10:45 --- 1 --- Over Etrigoids.
9/29/69 --- 12:30 --- 1 --- Buzzing over Frazier Creek.

On this observation, both Mrs. Upham and Mr. Upham admitted they could have counted the same birds several times. Mrs. Upham thought there could have been only 8 condors.

At the Agricultural Commissioner's Office in Bakersfield I was told that Kern County contributes to a fund that is used by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Predator Control.

Fulltime trappers are on hand the year around, one at Cantil, one at Arvin, one at Sutter and one at Lost Hills. The lady at the front desk in Agricultural Commissioner's Office said squirrel poaching was still going on in the Bear Mountain area. This lady also said she would see the Commissioner, Mr. Selden Morley, and if she could, she would mail him the picture of 1000 hectoliters poison put out in Kern County during the first two years. Compound 100C
CALIFORNIA CONDOR  Eben McMillian  1 October 1964

was used and also the poundage, used in 1958-59-60-61-62 and 1963.

In evening we drove to old Tejon Ranch headquarters and rechecked condor observations with Gib McKenzie. I commenced my questioning with McKenzie by informing him that I had not made specific notations on the observation he had made of 31 condor in 1962 near the Tejon Ranch. I did not mention the number of 31 condor he had reported to me but rather mentioned his having told me of 28 or 30 condor having been seen. To this question Mr. McKenzie said, "No it was 31 condor I saw that time."

They were feeding on a carcass down behind the Gum Tree grove, and he pointed to this area from where we were standing. Mr. McKenzie could not recall the name of the fellow who was with him at the time but the man is no longer at Tejon Ranch.

Gib McKenzie also reviewed the information he had previously given me regarding his sighting of Two dead condor that lay near the water of Tunis Canyon. One of these condor carcasses was found since 1960.

Gib McKenzie also told me of having come suddenly upon 7 or 8 condor in the foothills, that had纵横 themselves on the putrid carcass of a cow that had died. As he approached these condor quickly they all dashed about and, while leaving the ground and before getting well into the sky, regurgitated up large amounts of the meat they had consumed. He said the meat was falling in good sized chunks on the ground.
California condor  Eben McMillen  Oct. 7, 1964

Letter received in mail today from Mrs. Evalyn Farnsworth of Glennville
dated Oct. 6, 1964, reads as follows.

condor traffic (observed that is) has been almost non-existent
but I am becoming more convinced that if a person were at a good
vantage point for all the daylight hours, hardly a day would pass without
one or more passing by.

9/30 by 2:25 P.M. Six circled over barn briefly, wasn't able to
see which direction they headed out.

9/31 by 8:00 A.M. One perched in bent pine.

9/31 by 5:30 P.M. One circling that ridge.

9/30 by 9:30 A.M. Two adults soaring high and level over
Rock Corral headed due slightly North of West. ( Probably leaving
country because of heavy smoke plane activity on pine fire).

Buzzards are still leaving at about one week intervals,
although all the resident group has gone. 9/19/64 one flight stayed
overnight in Jack Lawes flat on poko creek. Then, 9/28 another
group stayed overnight in the area northwest of our house. They
left next morning without visiting the boulevard.

sincerely

Evalyn
California Condor  Eben McMillan  October 7, 1964

The following is a letter on file, dated October 6, 1964, in which is submitted information which I requested of Agricultural Commissioner of Kern County regarding amounts of 1080 poison grain put out since 1945.

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<th>Pounds</th>
<th>Acres</th>
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