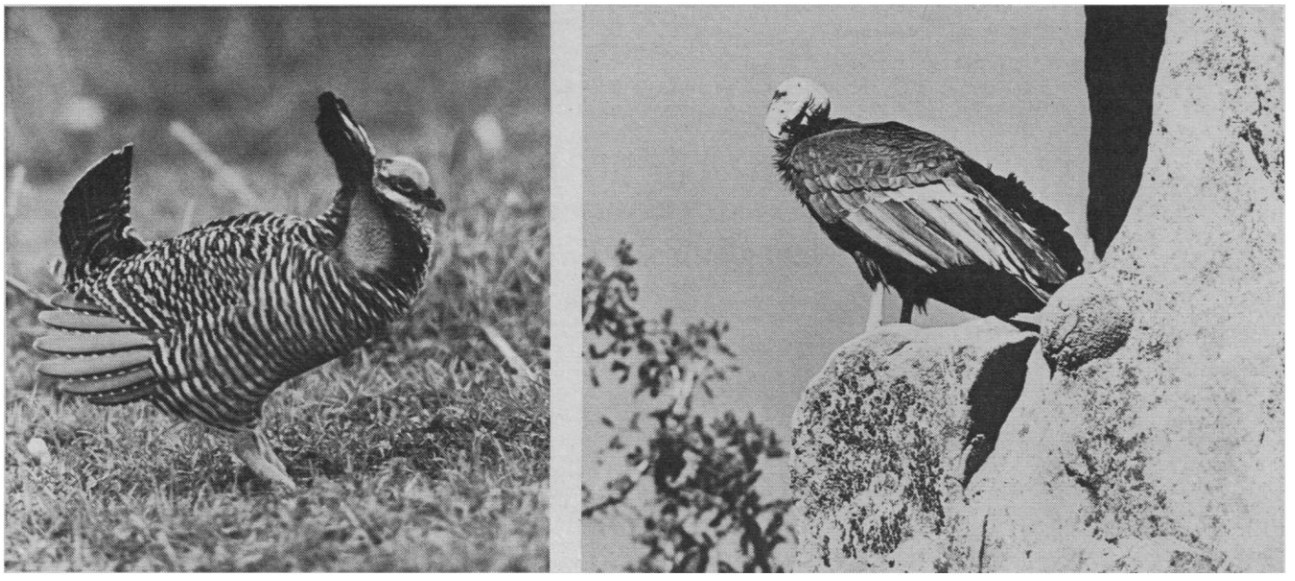

(Left) Attwater's Prairie Chicken, Texas [Luther Goldman, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service]. (Right) California Condor in Los Padres National Forest [Carl Koford, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service]

know about it, its commercial exploitation, its food and sporting qualities, its interaction with introduced species, its deterioration through man-environment-wildlife conflicts, and, finally, to suggest ways that this biota might be sustained in spite of the ever-increasing, human-induced environmental changes. Since wildlife resources are distributed ecologically instead of politically, it is hoped that this symposium also helps bring into focus the need for each American state to show progressively greater concern for endangered environments and their characteristic plants and animals by:

1) Taking steps to complete the necessary inventory of this vital endowment and provide for continually monitoring its status.

2) Devising methods to conserve cherished and rare species uniquely restricted to habitats found solely within its political boundaries.

3) Joining with other American states in establishing cooperative programs to conserve and manage compatibly those environments and their wildlife resources which these countries may share in common.

The symposium was arranged by Rollin H. Baker (United States) and Bernardo Vill Ramirez (Mexico).

ROLLIN H. BAKER
Michigan State University, East Lansing

Impact of Range Science in the Americas

Much of the land area of the Americas (40 percent or more) consists of rangeland ecosystems—for example, prairie, shrubland, savanna, desert—which, since the advent of Europeans, has been generally subjected to exploitative pastoralism. Additionally, some rangelands that are not suited for sustained economic crop production because of climatic or edaphic limitations have been put into cultivation. The latter has come about in the United States often as a result of short-term market considerations. In some Latin American countries cultivation of land has resulted from land reform programs which, although politically necessary, frequently have resulted only in a marginal subsistence agriculture. Such land use practices, due in large part to a failure to properly assess the inherent capabilities of rangelands, have in many cases resulted in a deterioration of ecosystems and in concomitant social and economic problems.

Over the past four decades, however, a substantial body of knowledge and technology has been developed concerning rangeland management. This symposium, related to the central theme "Deserts and Arid Lands" and consisting of two half-day sessions on 30 June, is designed to explore the potentially very significant impact of this technology on the development, use, and productivity of natural grazing lands and, consequently, on the economic and social future of the peoples of the Western Hemisphere.

Co-arrangers are Harold F. Heady (University of California, Berkeley) and Martín H. González (Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Pecuarias-Secretaría de Agricultura y Ganadería, Chihuahau, Mexico). Six formal presentations—by Mariano Segura (Peru), Jorge Brun (Argentina), Pedro Ruíz González (Mexico), Martín H. González (Mexico), J. J. Norris (United States), and Thadis W. Box (United States)—will be interspersed with planned discussions involving scientists, technicians, politicians, economists, and sociologists from Mexico and the United States.

Particular emphasis will be given throughout the symposium to the application of underlying principles in the development and management of rangelands for the very necessary production of food, fiber, and water for human use and for the enhancement of other values beneficial to man's well-being.

On 1 and 2 July there will be a field trip to the state of Zacatecas to observe the first phase of Mexico's recently initiated National Rangeland Improvement Program which is designed to reestablish rangeland ecosystems on *ejidos* (land reform farms) that have been seriously depleted by 60 years of continuous cropping to corn and beans.

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