



Roundtable

... with Louis C. Fink

Flamingos Disappear

In Etosha National Park in Namibia, scientists note the disappearance of 1,250,000 flamingos in 1976. Nobody has seen them since. The observers are sure the birds are alive, but don't know where they have gone.

Harris' Hawk on Stage

When the New York City Opera produced *Der Freischutz*, it had a bit part for Harry, the Harris' Hawk, owned by Dr. Heinz Meng. State conservation authorities claimed the predator was kept illegally and confiscated it. Argument ensued as to whether the hawk could ever be re-introduced to the wild.

Miscellany

The National Wildlife Federation reports that 4000 volunteer spotters counted 13,709 Bald Eagles in January of 1981, up from 13,046 counted in 1980—and 35% more than were counted in 1979.

A man in Oregon was fined \$2,500 for killing a Bald Eagle. He was caught because of a radio transmitter on the bird.

The Black-tailed Godwit popped up from Scandinavia on Merritt Island, Florida, and observers came from as far away as Denver.

Argument rages over how to save the California Condor, of which from 20 to 30 still live in California. One plan is to capture some birds, have them breed in captivity, and attach monitoring devices. At least one condor expert objected to this as meddling.

The Peregrine Falcon has been re-introduced in New York City. Mayor Ed Koch was there when young were released in City Hall Park.

Litter in shopping center parking lots is becoming a food source for Ring-billed Gulls and Herring Gulls in Cleveland. The paved areas probably look like water to the birds.

At the Mile Hi Sanctuary in Hereford, Arizona, observers are coming from all over to see the hummingbirds. Fourteen species can be seen, more than at any other place, it is said.

Ring-necked Pheasant's First Century

Minnesota is celebrating the arrival of the Ring-necked Pheasant 100 years ago with a stamp from a painting by Roger Preuss. The stamp is \$5; a full-color copy of the painting is \$125. Last year, hunters took 466,000 pheasants; the total is expected to be higher this year.

Wild Turkey Coming Back?

Millions of wild Turkeys disappeared from this country, and by 1920 it is said that the bird was gone from 18 of 36 States in which it was native. By 1940, the total population was down to 40,000. (In 1944, I had the thrill of watching birds on Bull's Island, S.C., with Alexander Sprunt. We spent an hour waiting by a trail and the Turkey family arrived. Mr. Sprunt guaranteed that domestic turkeys could not fly or swim from the mainland.) The news is better today and press reports announce two million birds in all 48 States, concentrated in the East.

