

William L. Finley

1906 Journal article titled “Life History of the California Condor” published in *The Condor*

“On March 10, 1906, I set out with two companions to make further search for the nest. The most striking feature of this region where the condor lived is the fact that one passes through the green fields, orchards and vineyards; land that is under the highest cultivation, right up to the beginning of the mountains. At eight o’clock in the morning, we were in the midst of pleasant homes and gardens, out of civilization. We were in the roughest, wildest place without an indication of human habitation. Wild indeed, because this was the natural haunt of the California Condor. Following the trail for several miles along the canyon we came to the place where the great birds were last seen. From this point, we had a splendid lookout up and down the ravine. For some time we watched and scanned the mountain sides without field glass, but saw no signs of condors.”

Carl Koford

1953 from *The California Condor* p. 1

“My method was primarily that of watching condors for long periods under conditions which were as natural as possible. Because condors are easily disturbed by men, observations were usually made from a considerable distance with binoculars or with a 20-power spotting telescope, and the concealment of a cave or blind was often used. Many entire days were spent in observing from a small lookout house, which the United States Forest Service constructed for my use, and from regular fire lookout stations.”

Noel and Helen Snyder

2000 from Chapter 14: “Formation of a captive flock” p. 289 in *The California Condor*

“Perhaps the closest we came to disaster was at a nest site in Santa Barbara County in 1985, where the wind rose to a howling intensity shortly after we had a completed removal of an egg before the helicopter arrived. Jim Dalton was only barely able to land the chopper, and Noel and Jim took off down canyon just moments before the conditions became totally impossible for flight. Unfortunately in the haste to leave the area Noel had not fastened his seat belt. Only half a mile from the nest the chopper hit one last turbulent downdraft that “lifted” him and the egg transport case in his hands right to the ceiling, breaking one egg case thermometer in the process. Thankfully, the descent back to seat level was not violent, the egg was unharmed, and it ultimately landed successfully.”

Janet Hamber

from 05/28/2015 interview

“Once the decision was made to take into captivity all the remaining wild California Condors, the biologists from the Condor Research Center were out almost every day trapping those last few birds. From February and through all of March, for almost two months, we were chasing AC-9, this one last bird. When I went out in mid-April, a nice fresh carcass had been put out. AC-9 came in to the bait so I watched the trap but there was a Golden Eagle on the carcass. Every time AC-9 tried to sneak a bite, the eagle would chase him off. Once that eagle left, another eagle came in and continued to chase AC-9, who finally gave up his chance to eat and flew off to a nearby roost. I knew he would come back the next morning, which was Easter Sunday. I sat there thinking, ‘I should call in the trap team. Capturing AC-9 is the job and this is the goal. I’m going to have to trust that things will work out and they are going to release the wild birds.’”

(This story and similar interviews can be found in the film *The Condor’s Shadow*. Use of this film is recommended as an ELL modification of visual and auditory learning options.)

Name: _____

My group's source: _____

Sourcing	Using Background Knowledge	Reading the Silences