

Kids' KOrner

Try these pelican riddles!

What kind of sweets do pelicans like? PeliCANDY.
 What do you get when you cross a yellow songbird with a pelican? A peliCANARY.
 How does a pelican see at night? It carries a peliCANDLE.
 What is a pelican that gives up? A peliCAN'T.
 What do you call a bird that won't give up? A peliCAN.



Arduous Grand Canyon trek yields condor fossils

GRAND CANYON, Ariz. — The same thing that made the fossils so hard for the scientists to find is what protected them for 12,000 years: they are so inaccessible to man as well as to any other large mammals.

The fossils are in a series of caves along the majestic sheer Redwall limestone cliffs near the bottom of the Grand Canyon, down where the raging Colorado River did its work over millions of years, tearing the land apart and leaving it unreachable by man or beast.

But the Colorado did not reckon with modern mountain-climbing equipment, or with contemporary camping gear, or with the zeal of scientists out to answer questions they consider important.

So this year, for the first time, a handful of men and one woman

scaled the cliffs and entered about 15 of those caves. They found the skulls, bones, even feathers of condors that may have used the caves as nesting and roosting sites in Pleistocene times.

Cross-country Team

Heading the scientific team was Steve Emslie, 30, a graduate student at the University of Florida with an interest in fossil birds. With him were Jim Mead, 32, an assistant professor at the University of Maine and a veteran of studying fossil remains in the Grand Canyon, and Mead's wife, Emilee, 26, a scientific photographer and illustrator.

With the aid of climbers Larry Coats and Dave Dawson, they spent 35 days, floating down the Colorado, climbing cliffs, photographing and mapping

caves, and collecting specimens from the surface and beneath it.

The trip had its origins in a visit by Emslie to the Grand Canyon in 1983, in the company of scientist friends.

"I noticed a lot of caves on the vertical cliffs, and thought they would be good for fossil birds," Emslie recalls. "The cliff walls are limestone, and limestone is good for cave formation. The caves were large enough and deep enough to make them attractive for nesting or roosting without large animals entering and disturbing nests. And California condors are known to use caves to nest in."

Emslie received permission from the Preliminary Study of the cave. With the aid of climbers Coats and

Dawson, he spent 21 days in the area, entering several caves and finding fossil remains of condors, mountain goats, and other animals on the surface.

Encouraging Start

Encouraged, he designed a lengthier research project for this summer, enlisted the aid of the Meads, and applied for and received financial support from the National Geographic Society. The team used four boats, each piloted by a Colorado River boatman, and had the help of other support personnel.

Emslie hoped to answer the question of whether a condor that has been assigned by scientists to a species of its own and that has been assigned to be extinct has a California condor subspecies.

The fossils he found should help

answer the question if, as he expects, they are dated to the late Pleistocene. The key find, "a beautiful specimen" found in a cave the team named after its discoverer, Larry Stevens, is a complete condor skull so well-preserved that skin remains attached to it.

"It's got all of the beak intact, and some of the small bones underneath in the palate area," Emslie says enthusiastically.

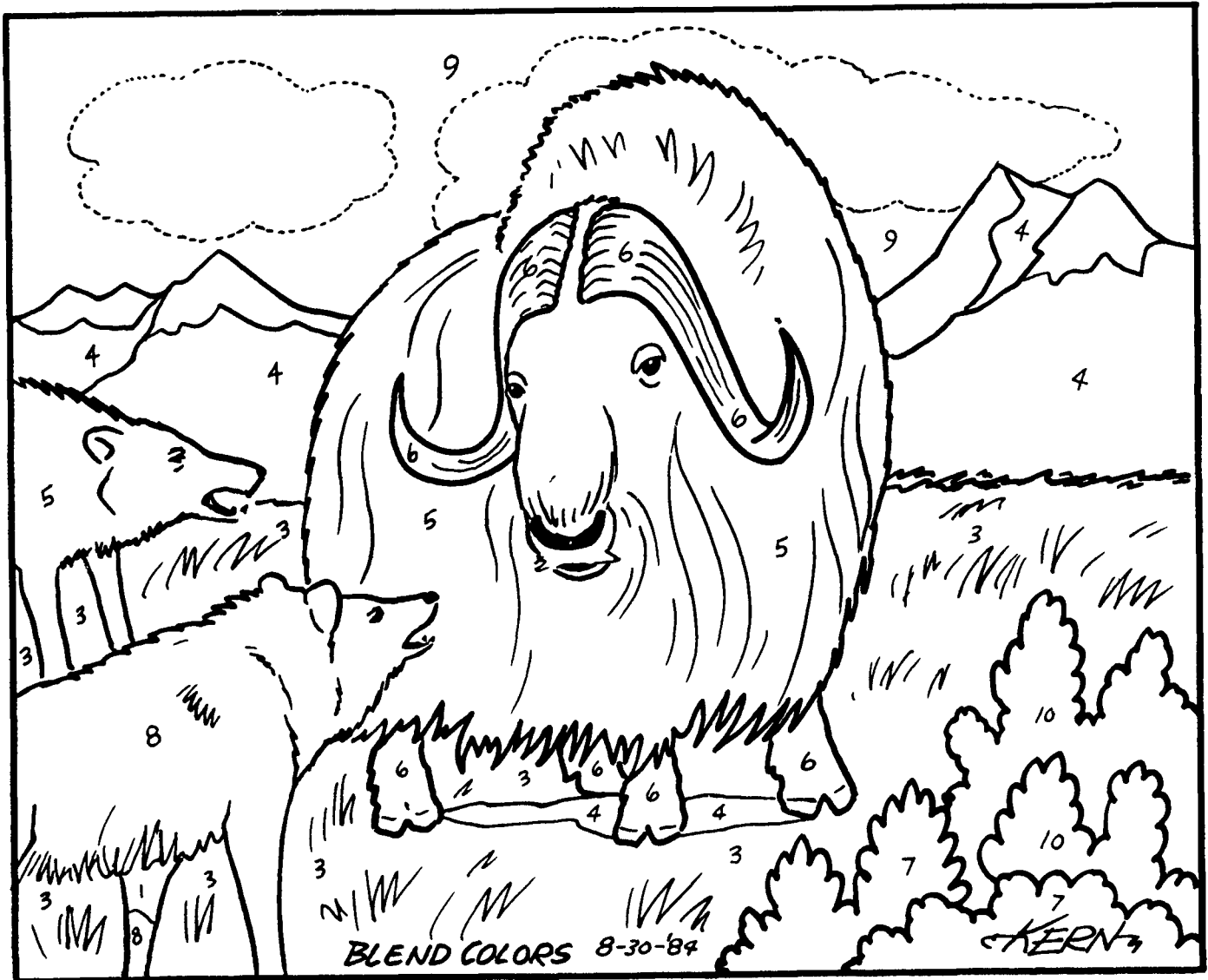
Emslie has compared his find with condor skulls found at the Rancho La Brea in Los Angeles, but is so far unable to provide a definitive answer to the question of whether it was a separate, now extinct species. He has some notions about what happened, however.

(Turn to Page B11)

COLOR THIS!

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1. BLACK | 6. PEACH |
| 2. RED | 7. GREEN |
| 3. YELLOW | 8. LT. GREY |
| 4. BLUE | 9. LT. BLUE |
| 5. RED BROWN | 10. LT. GREEN |

THE MUSK OX IS A MEMBER OF THE CATTLE FAMILY THAT HAVE ADAPTED TO HARSH COLD LANDS. THE MUSK OX LIVES IN NORTHERN CANADA AND GREENLAND. IT HAS A LONG SHAGGY COAT THAT PROTECTS IT FROM THE RAIN, SNOW AND BITTER COLD. THEY HAVE SHARP HOOVES AND HORNS TO PROTECT THEMSELVES FROM ANIMALS, ESPECIALLY ATTACKING WOLVES.



BLEND COLORS 8-30-84