



March 14-20 *News/View 18 March 1982*

Wildlife week is celebrated

This week, March 14-20, is the 45th celebration of National Wildlife Week. Robert Redford, who is dedicated to conservation efforts, will serve as Wildlife Week chairman. This year's theme is "We Care About Eagles," with 1982 marking the 200th anniversary of the selection of the bald eagle as our national symbol.

In 1776, after our independence from England, the Continental Congress wanted a symbol for our new nation. Ben Franklin, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams were chosen to design the symbol, but with no luck. Nothing seemed suitable. Finally in 1782 Charles Thompson, secretary of Congress, gave it a try. His design was a winner. From the first committee he chose the Latin motto *E Pluribus Unum* (Out of Many, One). From the second committee he chose the arrows, the olive branch and the 13 stars and stripes. An artist by the name of William Barton thought an eagle would be good since the eagle was an ancient symbol of power and greatness. However, just an eagle wasn't good enough for Thompson. He chose the bald eagle because it lived only on the North American continent. On June 20, 1782 the symbol designed by Thompson and the artist was approved by Congress.

In 1782, the bald eagle was a common sight throughout North America. Today however, it is endangered in 43 states. The establishment of sanctuaries, research and breeding programs, along with the ban on DDT, may help their recovery. However, William Clark, director of the National Wildlife Federation's Raptor Informa-

tion Center, feels the most serious threat to the birds in the future is habitat destruction.

The Maricopa Audubon Society is concerned about this very thing on a stretch of the Verde River, between Horseshoe and Bartlett dams, where the new Cliff Dam is proposed. This area is the hunting grounds for two pairs of bald eagles. (See front page, *News / View*, Feb. 11, 1982). Most of the river systems, which once flowed through Arizona, are now gone because of dams, thus adding to the plight of the eagle in our state.

The year of the eagle, 1982: Let's keep them flying!

□ **Garden tour:** Members of the Desert Botanical Gardens are to have the unique opportunity to tour John Rhuart's "spectacular private garden on Camelback Mountain — the city's exceptional desert oasis" (*Architectural Digest*, 1980) on Sunday from 1-5 p.m. Cost is \$5 per member. His garden contains many unusual plants, many collected from world travels. Dr. Charles A. Huckins, director of DBG, describes Las Palmas Altas as "one of the finest private gardens in the West." Mr. Rhuart, a native of Phoenix, is a retired senior vice-president of Valley National Bank and one of the founders and past-chairman of the board of DBG. Cost of individual membership in DBG is \$15, family membership, \$20. Application forms can be obtained by phoning 941-1217.