

BIRDS, RARE IN COUNTY, FEED IN WATER, ROOST IN TREES



This unusual photograph of a flock of long-necked Wood Ibis, rare in California, was taken by Mary Belle Claggett, on a pool at the Rancho Santa Fe estate of Chester Wyvell. More than 200 of the graceful wading birds were in the flight that settled on two small lakes at the Rancho. Easily frightened, the birds are hard to photograph.

NEW RANCH HOME UNDER ERECTION

ESCONDIDO, April 12 (Special).— Builders are engaged in the construction of a large, new home for Mr. and Mrs. B. C. Wohlford on their ranch in the east end of the valley. The foundation for the home has been installed and other work is now under way.

Subcontracts on the job have been awarded to B. A. Sweet, plumbing; Reagan & Axe, wiring and fixtures; Escondido Sheet Metal works, furnace and heating; Jones & Lance, plastering; Escondido Cement Products company, foundation and cement work; Hayward Lumber company, lumber, and Gus Belfort, fireplace masonry. All are Escondido concerns. W. A. Simmons of La Jolla holds the general contract and will handle his own carpenter work.

WOOD IBIS FLOCK WADES PONDS OF RANCHO SANTA FE

A flock of Wood Ibis (*Tantalus localator*), birds of the stork family, recently settled on two ponds at Rancho Santa Fe, Sidney R. Nelson, Rancho Sales Co. executive reported.

The birds, which are becoming extinct rapidly, are large, long-necked and long-legged. Their heads and neck are bald, body white, wings white with black tips, legs black and beak long and slight-

ly curved. They nest in tall trees but feed in ponds on snails, frogs, worms and other forms of animal life. Their native habitat is the Everglade area of Florida but they are found also along the lower regions of the Colorado river.

About 200 of the birds were in the flight when it arrived, and they apparently have taken up residence on the two ponds. They are little known in southern California and are not mentioned in some reference books on birds of this area, Nelson said. Wary of humans, the birds take to flight at the slightest warning of danger and are exceptionally hard to photograph, Nelson reported.

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