



National Audubon Society

NATIONAL CAPITAL OFFICE
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Mrs. Kathleen & Mr. Gaylord Jones
2860 Halcyon Road
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420

Dear Kathy & Gaylord:

I knew it would happen -- it always does when I come back from a beautiful trip: I get swallowed up in the crush of business here, battered about from place to place with such a constant confusion of phone calls and meetings that the memories of what I had seen and where I was can only come back in bits and fragments . . . the sweet smell of the southern ocean as I walked along the beach at sunset, watching the sea turn turquoise, then velvet, then almost black; the even sweeter smell of the flowers, sage, and grasses as I strode up and down the high ridges at Point Sal, high up in the sun, the ocean crashing a thousand feet below, wanting to flap my wings and soar like an eagle; the totally different, yet also absolutely exquisite sensation of following you literally from plant to plant through the willow thickets, around Oso Flaco Lake (what a surprise!), and up to the top and down Coreopsis Hill, through the Dunes, everywhere . . . is it possible that we did all that in the space of 24 hours or less?

But finally for me, the most of it was you, and getting to know you both better, sharing your house, eating all sorts of interesting things, and just talking. Kathy, you are a gem and a treasure, and I am so glad for the Nipomo Dunes that you are there. Because of you and what you have done so far, your courage and your perservance, and also that of your conservation colleagues, who have also worked so hard, I think we have a good chance of doing something.

Of course, it was most disturbing to hear of all the threats, particularly from the Off Road Vehicles, or the recalcitrance of other big land owners in the area to consider selling out to a federal entity for park purposes, as opposed to selling out for developers. Clearly, we have our work cut out for us.

Just as clearly, there is no question in my mind that, from the magnificent Dunes on the north, the lovely little lakes and the beaches, Coreopsis Hill, the little streams winding to the sea, all the way down to the magnificence of the high ridges and crage of Point Sal, itself -- and beyond . . . all of this must be protected, and all of it certainly qualifies as a national park. If your efforts could ever succeed, we would have a magnificent addition to our system of national treasures, and one that is long overdue.