

Baker deserves most of the credit for the creation, in 1947, of the Sespe Condor Sanctuary in Los Padres National Forest, California; and his persistence made him a key figure in the creation of Everglades National Park, again in 1947.

Baker was also the first conservation leader to speak out against the environmental hazards of DDT use. As early as 1946 he warned, at a Winter Park meeting of the Florida Audubon Society, that "History is replete with examples of man's headlong rushes into control measures with lasting adverse effects he failed to foresee. The damaging possibilities of the broadcasting of DDT outdoors call for restraint and utmost caution in its use. Let us not open another Pandora's Box." In 1958, writing in *Outdoor America*, he publicized the fact that the Secretary of the Interior's Advisory Committee on Fish and Wildlife—of which he had been chairman—had urged a \$25,000,000-a-year research program to screen the chronic toxicity of the 500 different pesticides then in use. Although this caused him to be villified as impractical and irrational, a decade later the U.S. Department of Agriculture requested and was given \$65,000,000 simply to "monitor" DDT levels in the environment, a program it quietly abandoned when its own findings proved too embarrassing to complete and publish.

John Baker was a good field ornithologist and a forceful advocate of the Audubon conservation approach; but because he preferred to work quietly, often on a personal diplomacy basis in high places, his full accomplishments will never be known. This is a loss he contributed to by refusing to help write the history of his very personal 26 years at the helm of the Audubon movement. He said it would hurt too many people if he told it the way it had been. He suffered debilitating strokes in 1967, eight years after retirement, and died 21 September 1973.—ROLAND C. CLEMENT.

#### NEWS NOTE

"The best laid plans" applies to museums as well as mice and men. The construction of new quarters and the move of the bird collections at Field Museum of Natural History have been postponed and are now on the following (tentative) schedule—construction, 1 December 1974 to 30 September 1975; move, 1 October 1975 to 31 December 1975. During construction, access to the collections will be limited; during the move there will be none. Thank you for your forbearance.—MELVIN A. TRAYLOR, *Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, Illinois 60605*.