

according to a report released recently by the House Committee on Government Operations. The report, entitled "The Degradation of Our National Parks," outlines the findings and recommendations which are the result of an extensive investigation conducted by the Conservation, Energy, and Natural Resources Subcommittee.

The report charges that "The Park Service's resources are now, and have for the last several years been, inadequate to carry out the tasks which the NPS is mandated to perform. The guardian of our National Parks has, despite its best efforts, seen its resources deteriorate... park buildings, roads, bridges, trails, historic sites, and archaeological relics are not being maintained according to the Park Service's own standards."

Subcommittee Chairman Leo J. Ryan (Cal.) stated that "This report well documents the sad state of conditions presently existing in our national parks. It's about time the Interior Department, the OMB, and the Congress respond to the obvious need for additional resources of one of our most dedicated and responsible federal agencies — the National Park Service."

### California Falcon Program Successful

For the first time in California, young prairie falcons bred in captivity have been introduced successfully into the wild. The breakthrough occurred last year when Gary Beeman, a falconer operating under a permit from the state, produced 10 young prairie falcons. This year 12 young were raised and two were placed in a nest of wild prairie falcons in northern California. They were adopted and fed by their foster parents and are now foraging for themselves.

Beeman noted that even under the best of conditions a pair of prairie falcons in the wild would require a minimum of eight years to produce 22 young, the number he brought off in two years. Techniques used in Beeman's captive raptor breeding program will be used to supplement wild



*Diorama of Illinois woodland, Hall 29*

populations of the endangered peregrine falcon in California. □

### Certified Wildflower Varieties to Become Available

Certified varieties of native wildflowers are being released after ten years of cooperative tests by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service (SCS), the Kansas and Nebraska state agricultural experiment stations, and the Nebraska Department of Roads.

The plants, according to SCS, control erosion, are beautiful, and provide wildlife food and cover. The newly domesticated wildflowers include purple prairie clover, pitcher sage, and thickspike gayfeather. Authorities expect the plants to be used initially to beautify and stabilize road rights-of-way.

SCS' Plant Materials Center at Manhattan, Kansas, will produce and

distribute foundation seed to selected seed growers this fall. Assuming a good growing season, there should be limited quantities available by the fall of 1978.

### Pollution Control-Environmental Conference

A "how-to" session on putting profits on the black instead of the red side of the ledger when dealing with pollution cleanup is to be held in Chicago at a high-level industry and government conference January 17 and 18. The meeting place is the Hyatt Regency O'Hare.

The conference, titled "Beyond Environmental Regulations: Industry Takes the Initiatives," is cosponsored by the midwest EPA office, the U.S. Department of Commerce, state chambers of commerce and manufacturers' associations in Illinois, Indi-





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