

Space

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By rerouting power, data and video cables, the spacewalkers paved the way for the 58-foot robot arm, designed to move like an inchworm, to step onto the railcar and be transported along the track. But first, a base for the arm must be installed on the car during the next shuttle flight in June.

The ambidextrous arm, which has a hand on each end, is needed to assemble space station Alpha as it continues to grow.

Over the next few years, eight more

girders with more track will be attached to the segment delivered last week by Atlantis. The framework ultimately will extend 356 feet and support four sets of solar wings as well as radiators and science experiments.

On Sunday, Smith and Walheim released launch-restraint bolts on the railcar in preparation for Monday's trial run and admired the view 240 miles below.

"Beautiful place we live," Smith observed.

A fourth and final spacewalk is scheduled for Tuesday to wrap up the girder work. Atlantis will undock from the space station on Wednesday.

Extinct bird species recovered

LOS PADRES NATIONAL FOREST, Calif. (AP) — Biologists celebrated a milestone in the recovery of the once nearly extinct California condor, the survival of a chick conceived and hatched in the wild.

The chick in Los Padres National Forest in Santa Barbara County is the first conceived, hatched and raised in the wild to survive more than a day. It was 4 days old on Monday.

"The parents are feeding it, and it seems to be doing really well," said Bronwyn Davey, spokesperson for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Biologists had tried to remove the egg from the nest last

month out of concern that the parents were not ready for it. But the father protected the egg so aggressively the plan was scrapped, Davey said.

The birds, the largest in North America, nearly disappeared in the 1980s. Captive breeding programs helped its numbers rebound to 188, and about 60 of the birds are in the wild in Southern California and Arizona.

Three other condor eggs have been laid in the wild, never hatched and the chick from the third egg was right after hatching last year by the same female mother the latest chick.

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