"I remember coming out upon the northern Great Plains in the late spring. At first there is no discrimination in the eye, nothing but the land itself, whole and impenetrable. But then smallest things begin to stand out of the depths—herds and rivers and groves—and each of these has perfect being in terms of distance and of silence and of age. Yes, I thought, now I see the earth as it really is; never again will I see things as I saw them yesterday or the day before."

N. Scott Momaday, The Way to Rainy Mountain

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

**January 18**

**Saturday**

**LAKE CACHUMA**—Meet at the Thrifty parking lot in 5-Points Shopping Center @ 8am for car pooling, or meet at the east end of the lake (closest to Santa Barbara) @ 8:30am. Spotting scopes will be useful. We will eventually end up at Nojoqui Falls near Solvang for lunch and return via 101. Waterfowl, raptors.

**Leader:** Mike Fishbein, 966-6954

**January 21**

**Friday**

**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**—Fleischmann Auditorium, Museum of Natural History, 8pm. Come on out and meet some of our other members. More than one meeting topic is still being considered but either way, you know it will be interesting. Please bring a cup for refreshments...styrofoam pollutes.

**January 25-26**

**Sat.-Sunday**

**LOS BANOS WILDLIFE REFUGE**—A trip to this Merced County refuge, with its great variety of wintering geese, ducks, swans, marsh birds, and raptors, is planned, depending on weather conditions and member interest. Contact leaders for more information.

**Leaders:** Joe Gartland, 968-3307
Bill Gielow, 687-3166

**February 1**

**Saturday**

**VENTURA COUNTY GAME PRESERVE**—This is a good trip for beginning bird watchers (as well as us old coots). A large area of open fields and ponds. Good for wintering waterfowl and shorebirds, as well as some unusual sightings (last year a Peregrine Falcon with prey and a Vermillion flycatcher were sighted.) Possibly Short-eared Owls. Take a lunch and spotting scopes. Meet @ All Saints-by-the-Sea Episcopal Church school parking lot (going south on 101, exit @ San Ysidro Rd., turn right to Eucalyptus Lane; parking lot soon on right), at 8am. Driver donation: $1.

**Leader:** Brad Schram, 968-6255

CALENDAR continued on page 2.
--PAGE TWO--

CALENDAR

February 15 Saturday  DUNE LAKES--A beautiful area and a wonderful opportunity to view ducks, geese, marsh birds. It is necessary to limit the trip to 10 cars. Suggested driver donation: $2.50. Take lunch. Priority will be given to those members who haven't visited this private hunting preserve before. Contact leaders for reservations. Plan to meet at the Museum of Natural History or at the Arroyo Grande exist going north on 101.

Leaders: Mike and Donnis Goodwin, 963-1265

February 23 Sunday  Harbor, Bird Refuge--Meet near the Yacht Club on the breakwater at 8:30 am.

Leader: John Arnold

FIELD TRIP REPORT

Lake Los Carneros--A small group of birdwatchers met early on Nov. 30 for a morning's walk around the 2 Goleta Lakes. Among the 15 species seen were a common Gallinule, 2 pairs of Gadwall, Redheads, Canvasbacks, Red-naped Sapsucker, Bonaparte's Gulls and kingfishers. Near the beginning of our walk around the large pond, two American Bitterns were seen gayly cavorting in the reeds--one assumed the vertical alarm posture.

Santa Barbara area naturalists are fortunate to have this pond environment scheduled for park status, but its value for wildlife could be severely damaged by recreational overdevelopment. This walk was scheduled just after sunrise because you can see the birds more easily then and soon after the neighborhood wakes up, the din of childrens motorbikes and traffic begins. As many birdwatchers who frequent the lakes know, a late morning walk may not be very productive, which is unfortunate.

Bill Gielow

NUMBER PLEASE--OOPS!

I was quite embarrassed to find that the number listed in the last issue for the LA Audubon taped message was incorrect. The correct number is: (213) 874-1318. Sorry for any inconvenience.

******** ** ********

ON DOING ONE'S THING

On Thanksgiving a friend and I walked in through an open way, over the RR tracks, to sit and walk on the lovely beach northwest of the Ventura river estuary. Quiet. Many birds observed. Peaceful. Presently two ORV's, one ridden by a 15 year old boy (we asked him his age and begged him and an older man to leave the beach alone)--without license, without any muffler or noise control, each ORV belching blue fumes. Birds disappeared in alarm. Back and forth at top speed rode these two idiots. When they'd had their fill, they left, rode up to the tracks, hoisted their ORV's between the rails and crossed the river on the old iron trestle and so--out of sight.

Back and forth on the beach immediately following the departure of the ORV's, two 4-wheel drive machines "did their thing"--one at top speed. Each alternated between the actual beach and a sand track road behind it--along the dunes and RR tracks and beside a small freshwater pond containing a few birds--but they left. We had walked that way to get away from the stinking blue exhaust fumes of the ORV lads on the beach. No use.

I wonder if the CHP is interested? Or the owners of the land? Or the Southern Pacific? Or anyone who has reverence and/or responsibility toward nature? Or the birds?

It was a farce and a madness to go there for something pure and unspoiled and to discover that the state of California, for a $15 fee, allows and/or encourages this kind of "sport".

Dorothy Jeakins, 969-0777
REGULAR MEETING

This month's meeting topic will be a presentation on the Big Sur Planning Unit of the Los Padres National Forest. Don Renton, Assistant Superintendent for Los Padres, will lecture and show slides of the area.

TENTATIVE FIELD TRIPS 1975

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<td>June 7</td>
<td>Annual Picnic-Stow Grove</td>
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PERIPHERAL CANAL

Paul Howard, Western Regional Representative for National Audubon, sent a letter to the Director of the California Department of Water Resources regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Peripheral Canal Project. The following is a summation of that letter, pointing out several inadequacies in the EIR:

1) No primary protection to wildlife, nor does it contain mechanisms to further protect California's Wild and Scenic Rivers from further development;
2) The EIR is based on projected population needs which are conjectural and therefore unstable. Actual population may be less than projections;
3) Inadequate consideration of a 6000' fish screen (none so large exists);
4) Inadequate power requirement consideration;
5) Inadequate consideration of true cost of development and operation of canal;
6) Inadequate consideration to replanting the canal area for wildlife. Only native California species should be used;
7) Inadequate consideration of water distribution during a dry year.

The National Audubon Society believes that a canal one half as large as the proposed canal would be adequate.

If you wish to write to the Director informing him of your displeasure with the draft EIR, his address is as follows:

Mr. John R. Teerhm, Director, Department of Water Resources, State of California, P.O.Box 388, Sacramento, CA 95802.

THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN

Once again the California Grey Whale is migrating south to Baja California and they may be seen quite easily from numerous points in the area. A very good place for viewing the whales is on the bluffs above UCSB Point near the lagoon. A bit of patience and a keen eye should reward you with the extremely thrilling sight of one or more of these huge mammals.
KILLER WHALE SANCTUARY?

Senator Warren Magnuson thinks that Puget Sound would make a wonderful Killer Whale Sanctuary. So do I. If you do, write to him urging him to introduce legislation concerning the matter. (US Senate, Washington, D.C. 20515).

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IN CASE YOU FORGOT

More whales have been killed in the past 50 years than in the entire whaling history. One whale dies every 15 minutes and some species may be biologically extinct. Japan and Russia are violating the whale quotas set by the International Whaling Commission. Japan and Russia have rejected the 10 year moratorium approved by the UN Conference on Human Environment.

Whales are used for shoe polish, crayons, lipstick, pet food, and margarine. There is a cheap substitute available for all whale products. Whale meat constitutes only 1.5% of Japan's (human) protein diet.

BOYCOTT JAPANESE AND RUSSIAN PRODUCTS (Don't for one minute think that it will have no effect.)

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

At this time I wish to extend a warm welcome to all new members and to wish all our members a healthy and Happy New Year! We have a need for willing workers in many branches of our chapter. If interested contact any Board Member (names in Sept. Tecomote). Due to inflated costs a one-year subscription to El Tecomote is now $1.50.

Minna Smith


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EL TECOLOTE

Deadline for the February issue is the first Friday of February. Mail your contributions to John Arnold, 170 Old Mill Road #20, Santa Barbara 93110.

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EL TECOLOTE
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