



El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Vol. 13, No. 2
February 1975

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"All his gestures as he flits about amid the loud uproar of the falls bespeak the utmost simplicity and confidence--bird and stream one and inseperable. What a pair! yet they are well related. A finer bloom than the foam bell in an eddying pool is this little bird. We may miss the meaning of the loud-resounding torrent, but the flute-like voice of the bird--only love is in it,

"...the spontaneous, irrepressible gladness of the ouzel (Dipper), who could no more help giving out sweet song than a rose sweet fragrance."

John Muir, The Yosemite

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

February 23
Sunday

HARBOR-BIRD REFUGE--Meet at the Harbormaster's Office at 8:30 am for a walk along the breakwater to the sand spit. From there we'll go to the Bird Refuge. Shorebirds, marshbirds, ducks. Spotting scopes are always good for the sandspit and the islands at the Refuge.
Leader: John Arnold

February 28
Friday

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING--Fleischmann Auditorium, Museum of Natural History, 8pm. Farallon Light, an award winning film about the Farallon Islands and the largest colony of seabirds located in the continental U.S., will be shown. The film talks of the problems that the islands face with increasing human encroachment and the efforts by environmentalists to protect the islands. The Point Reyes Bird Observatory, the only full-time ornithological monitoring station on the West Coast, has a year-round station on the Farallones and this will be discussed as well as other work. PRBO is one of the organizations supported by SBAS with a yearly membership.

Also, two local photographers--Terry Ashe and Colin Cooke--will present a short multi-media show appealing for the preservation of Point Lobos.

REMEMBER: Styrofoam pollutes. Won't you bring your own cup for refreshments?

March 1
Saturday

POINT MUGU LAGOON--Cmdr. Robert Baker, USN, will lead a "dry foot" tour of the Pt. Mugu Lagoon. This area is not open to the public due to its inclusion in the missile testing range. A great variety of waterfowl and shorebirds are here. Cmdr. Baker will show a short introductory slide lecture before the hike.

Meet at the Security Building at Gate 1 (just off Hwy 1) at 9am. Wear warm clothes and pack a lunch. The group is limited to 25 and priority is given to those who haven't visited this unique area before. Contact leader for reservations before Feb. 25. Driver donation: \$1.50.

Leader: Beryl Moore, 643-2913
179 E. Ramona St., Ventura 93001

CALENDAR CONTINUED

March 8-9
Sat.-Sun

RON CASPAR PARK--(Formerly Starr-Viejo Regional Park). This Orange County Park is located in the Santa Ana Mountains and is composed of Sycamore and Oak-Chaparral foothills and canyons. Due to an unfortunate legal tangle, the proposed trip to Starr Audubon Ranch will not be made at this time. The Ron Caspar Park area is similar to the Starr Audubon Ranch habitat and will be a very worthy substitute. Notify the leader at least a week in advance if you plan to go.

Leader: Tomi Sollen, 966-4836.

825 N. Soledad, S.B. 93103

March 16
Sunday

VANDENBURG, LA PURISIMA MISSION--In SB, carpool at the Thrifty parking lot in 5-Points at 7:30am. Meet at La Purisima Mission near Lompoc at 8:30. After a leisurely walk in the mission gardens, drive to the AFB for birdwatching at the mouth of the Santa Ynez River. Last year a Golden Eagle was in the area for several months. Take a lunch, or buy your lunch at the snack bar. Driver donation: \$1.50.

Leaders: Russ & Mary Spowart, 733-1525

In SB: Bill Gielow, 687-3466

March 23
Saturday

SAN ROQUE CANYON--Details in March El Tecolote.

Leader: Jim Hodgson

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BUS ANYONE?

I am considering chartering a bus for the Refugio-Nojequi trip April 26. Hank is now a charter bus driver and he would donate his pay back to Audubon to reduce the cost. Depending upon the number interested, the price would be \$2.00-\$2.50 per person. Before I make the arrangements, I would like an expression of interest from those who might want to take the bus. If I hear from about 50 individuals, I will charter a bus for that day. If interested, call Jan Hamber, 967-6549 in the evening.

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VIRGINIA'S WARBLERS

Some friends ask why we don't cut down the dead oak and other dead trees around our house. My reply is that I like to attract the birds to where insects invade the trunks of dead trees and where woodpeckers, nuthatches, etc. nest. Our habitat is versatile with bees pollinating the flowers we grow and hummingbirds taking their toll of nectar too. Recently I visited Pensacola, Florida and my niece had been observing a red-headed woodpecker. She took me to see it, in an old telephone pole riddled with holes. Next to it was a new telephone pole with wires attached! Somebody cared enough about the woodpeckers to leave the old pole! Encourage your friends and neighbors to leave a few dead limbs, dead trees and perhaps the old poles for birds. When someone tells you they are killing woodpeckers and jays because the birds are killing their trees, remind them that the tree is actually dying from insect infestation, not from birds feeding.

You may have heard of the controversy regarding the proposed Peripheral Canal in the Sacramento Delta area. This project can affect the supply of state water to So. California. As citizens living in a potentially water-short area, we should make the effort to become familiar with all aspects of water needs and supply and let our elected officials know how we feel about the situation.

Any of you reading this who took typing may recall the old "All good men will come to the aid of their party." This is what our Santa Barbara Audubon Society Chapter needs, aid by its over 1,000 members. Nice to have you here a lot of work involved getting out the newsletter, answering phone calls, organizing field trips, etc. Where do you fit in? Bill Gielow could use help from someone willing to take reservations for field trips and/or help him plan them. Minna Smith could use help with sorting out the membership, correcting addresses, etc. We need personal contact with new members from the older ones

CONTINUED ON PAGE THREE

VIRGINIA'S WARBLERS Continued...

to serve on the hospitality committee. Doris Hughes can always use another pair of hands to assemble El Tecolote. Response to conservation issues are becoming time consuming and concerned members who wish to promote them might be prepared to make phone calls to find out how members feel on certain issues instead of what the Board of Directors and a few working members on the Conservation Committee feel. This would be more representative of the membership. To continue improving our organization, we need more willing hands (and ears) to handle the increased work load and make the chapter a viable organization in the community.

Virginia Puddicombe.

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FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Lake Cachuma (1/18/75): Audubon wishes to thank Mr. Micheal Pahos of the County Park Dept. for allowing a party of 26 birders to hike to the east end of Lake Cachuma, which is normally closed to public access. Because we could get right up to the lake, we were able to get much better views of waterfowl than can be obtained from our usual observation point along the highway. We spent the morning at the east end of the lake and drove afterwards to the dam for lunch and more birding. Fourteen species of ducks were sighted, including relatively large numbers of gadwalls, buffleheads (ca. 60), ring-necked ducks, and a single female goldeneye near the dam, which demonstrated its incredible ability to stay under water for extended periods of time. Other noteworthy sightings included white-tailed kites, phainopepla, and a flock of about 25 lark sparrows. The total number of species seen was 63. Perhaps the most unusual part of the trip was the weather: it was over 80 degrees--truly June in January.

Michael Fishbein

Los Banos Wildlife Refuge (1/25-26/75): Eight people made the trip and were rewarded with the sight of thousands of geese including Ross, Snow, White-fronted, Canada, and a few Blues. We also saw approximately 100 Whistling Swans. Other notables were Burrowing Owls, many Common Gallinules, several American Bittern and 2 Virginia Rails. We enjoyed good weather on this 700 mile round trip.

Bill Gielow

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EBIRDSRAREBIRDSRAREBIRDSRAREBIRDSRAREBIRDSRAREBIRDSRAREBIRDSRAREBIRDSRAREBIRDSR

Any sightings or rare birds, or out of season birds in the SB area should be reported to Jewell Krieger, 969-4192, so she can put it on the rare bird alert. If you wish further information about the alert, give Jewell a call.

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STRICTLY FOR THE BIRDS

Did you know that the Thrift Bakery on Aero Camino (in Goleta) has "bird bread" for about 5¢ a loaf? It's too old to sell, so they slit the top wrapper and sell it to people for animal consumption. It is an inexpensive way to lure our feathered friends into our yards. You have to ask for this bread at the counter.

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San Luis Obispo (AP)--Pacific Gas&Electric Co. says it must correct a fault in the cooling system of its Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant that resulted in several thousand abalone dying from a toxic copper emission.

The state Dept. of Fish and Game released a report on a test of the cooling system conducted last summer. The plant's effluent contained a toxic material that killed 2,000 to 10,000 black abalone and 2,000 to 3,000 red abalone, the report by water quality biologist Michael Martin said. The plant's effluent is released in the ocean in Diablo cove, south of Morro Bay.

--Los Angeles Times

The Seattle Audubon Society is sponsring a Costa Rica Ecology Workshop April 4-19, 1975. For mor information write for a brochure to Seattle Audubon Society, 714 Joshua Green Building, Seattle, Washington 98101.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The next Board of Directors meeting will be Thursday, March 6, 1975 at 7:30pm in the Junior Library of the Museum of Natural History. All members are always welcome and are encouraged to attend these meetings.

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

After 3 years as Membership Chairperson, I am turning over the job to Barbara Green. Effective February 1, 1975 all inquiries regarding membership should be directed to Barbara Green, 964-3075. I will continue to work for Audubon.

We are happy to welcome the following new members:

Isreal - Amelia and Joseph Terkel Ventura - MW Dinock David Richards
Ojai - Diana Sanders Don Sterba Goleta - Geoffrey Campbell Robert Johnson
SANTA BARBARA - Brian Arnold Alica Jackson Mrs Claud Allister Jim & Nina Pollock
Gladys Meester Elizabeth Arnold Mrs Elizabeth Roberts Robert Hough
David Tilton Mr & Mrs William Peeler Don Skipworth Jay Eversole James Ashe
Mrs Martha Lindquist Mrs Christine Oliver Michael Wilson Dr & Mrs Demerest Davenport

There is a 3 month lag between the time that you send in your dues to National Audubon Society and the time the computer sends it back to our local chapter. That is the reason we are slow getting you on the El Tecolote list and to acknowledge that you are a member. If you move, please let the membership chairperson know. No third class mail will be forwarded to you.

The Santa Barbara Chapter would like to extend our condolences to Mrs. Terrence Bellamy.

Minna E. Smith

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NOTES FROM THE CORNER

Please check your personal book shelves for the following books long missing from our Audubon Library: Book of Birdlife (Allen) Bird Watchers America (Pettingill)
New Handbook of Attracting Birds (McElroy) Golden Guide to Everglades (Zim)
Exploring our National Wildlife (Butcher) Birds of America (Audubon) A Field Guide to Western Bird Songs.

New books include Man and the California Condor; a pamphlet--Birding in the Bay Area; an unusual approach to study--American Wildlife and Plants-a Guide to Wildlife Food Habits; the brand new update A Birder's Guide to SE Arizona; a different approach in a field guide, Brown's Handbook of California Birds; and a local guide touching on our own regional wildlife, Trails of the San Raphael Wilderness. More suggestions on other titles you want to see added to our collection are welcomed.

A special thanks to Minna Smith, the first contributor to our travel pamphlets reference file. Do you have any material (maps, guides, checklists, etc.) for areas you have travelled to that we can add to our travel files as a resource? This is helpful information to assist fellow birders plan trips.

Donnis Goodwin, Librarian

SANTA BARBARA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT--1974

I wish to thank all those who put so much time and effort into organizing this year's count: especially Atlee Clapp, who put his boat, the Phalarope, at the disposal of our pelagic party; Jim and Mary Lou Hand, Bill Gielow, and Lewis Bevier, who assisted with the compilation; and the hundred and seven friends who spent Dec. 14 in the field.

Our total count was 180 species, plus one additional race--about 42,074 individuals. The following list includes all birds sighted on count day. Unusual species or numbers are underlined.

Common Loon	1	Mtn. Quail	1	Rngd Turtle Dove	1
Arctic Loon	2	Turkey	15	Roadrunner	1
Red-throated Loon	1	Virginia Rail	5	Barn Owl	6
Loon, sp.	4	Sora	15 (high)	Screech Owl	3
Horned Grebe	14	Am. Coot	2201	Gr. Horned Owl	13
Eared Grebe	25	Semipalm. Plover	11	Pygmy Owl	4
W. Grebe	107	Snowy Plover	125	Shrt-eared Owl	1
P-billed Grebe	162	Killdeer	753	Wht-thrd Swift	38
Brown Pelican	149 (high)	Bl-billed Plover	235	Blk-chd Humbird	2
Db.-cr. Cormorant	646	Ruddy Turnstone	2	Costa's Humbrd	3
Brandt's Corm.	1	Black Turnstone	26	Anna's Humbrd	604
Gr.-blue Heron	36	Com. Snipe	26	Selasphorus, sp.	1
Green Heron	10	Whimbrel	58	Bltd Kingfisher	18
Cattle Egret	4	Spttd Sandpiper	16	Common Flicker	220
Great Egret	39	Willet	275	Acorn Woodpecker	276
Snowy Egret	49	Gr. Yellowlegs	26	Yellow-bellied Sap-	
Bl.-cr. Ngt Heron	58	Lesser Yellowlegs	4	sucker	14
Am. Bittern	4	Least Sandpiper	123	Hairy Woodpecker	10
Canada Goose	9	Dunlin	30	Downy Woodpecker	18
Mallard	258	Sh-blld Dowitcher	45	Nuttall's Wdpecker	37
Gadwall	20 (high)	Lng-blld Dowitcher	72	Ash-throated Fly-	
Pintail	534	dowitcher, sp.	4	catcher	2
Gr.-wngd Teal	82	W. Sandpiper	11	Black Phoebe	64
Bl-wngd Teal	7	Marbled Godwit	159	Say's Phoebe	39
Cinnamon Teal	19	Sanderling	490 (low)	Scrub Jay	793
Am. Wigeon	446	Am. Avocet	5	Common Crow	691
N. Shoveler	160	Pomarine Jaeger	1	Mtn Chickadee	1
Redhead	49	Parasitic Jaeger	7 (high)	Plain Titmouse	334
Rng-necked Duck	133 (high)	jaeger, sp.	1	Bushtit	1536
Canvasback	69	Glaucous-wng Gull	9	White-breasted Nut-	
Lesser Scaup	77	Western Gull	827	hatch	52
Bufflehead	26	Herring Gull	12	Red-br Nuthatch	5
Wh-wngd Scoter	4	California Gull	428	Brown Creeper	7
Surf Scoter	65	Ring-billed Gull	576	Wrentit (high)	374
Ruddy Duck	691	Mew Gull	312	Dipper	1
Hooded Merganser	1	Bonaparte's Gull	734 (high)	House Wren (high)	19
Red-br. Mergans.	15	Heerman's Gull	608	Winter Wren	2
Turkey Vulture	55 (high)	Bl-lggd Kittiwake	1	Bewick's Wren	98
Wh-tailed Kite	84 (high)	gull, sp.	246	Lng-bld Marsh Wren	10
Sharp-sh. Hawk	14	Forster's Tern	114 (high)	Canon Wren (high)	25
Cooper's Hawk	17	Common Tern	1	Rock Wren	13
Red-tld Hawk	116	Royal Tern	8	Mockingbird	206
Red-shldr. Hawk	15	Elegant Tern	1	Cal. Thrasher	64
Golden Eagle	1	Caspian Tern	1	American Robin	1024
Marsh Hawk	4	Common Murre	1	Varied Thrush	2
Osprey	1	Band-Tld Pigeon	360 (low)	Hermit Thrush	50
Merlin	3	Rock Dove	233	W. Bluebird (low)	17
Am. Kestrel	170 (high)	Mourning Dove	873	Townsend's Solitaire	4
Calif Quail	317	Spotted Dove	13 (high)	Bl-gry Gnatcatcher	33
				Old-crnd Kinglet	35
				New-crnd Kinglet	107

1974 SB BIRD COUNT (continued)

Golden-crnd Kinglet	35	Comm. Yellowthroat	69	Rufous-sd Towhee	1488
Ruby-crnd Kinglet	407	House Sparrow	170	Brown Towhee	626
Water Pipit (high)	277	W. Meadowlark	837	Savannah Sparrow	97
Cedar Waxwing	763	Red-wngd Blackbird	6735	Lark Sparrow	19
Loggerhead Shrike	48	Triclr Blackbird (low)	4	Rufous-crnd Sparrow	18
Starling	1012	Hooded Oriole	1	Sage Sparrow	2
Hutton's Vireo	33	Northern Oriole	44	Dark-eyed Junco	890
Orange-crnd Warbler	34	Brewer's Blackbird	786	Chipping Sparrow	5
Nashville Warbler	4	Brown-headed Cowbird	20	Wht-crnd Sparrow	2266
Yellow-rmpd (Myrtle)		Purple Finch	44	Golden-cr Sparrow	461
Warbler	14	House Finch	2668	Wht-thrtd Sparrow	1
Yellow-rmpd (Audubon's)		Am Goldfinch	147	Fox Sparrow	17
Warbler	1338	Lesser Goldfinch	231	Lincoln's Sparrow	4
Blue-thrtd Gray Warbler	3	Lawrence's Goldfinch	2	Song Sparrow	169
Townsend's Warbler (high)	36	Green-tailed Towhee	11		

Seen during the three days before and the three days after the count:

Wood Duck Common Merganser Long-billed Curlew
Red Phalarope Horned Lark

Report by Mike Fishbein

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JAPANESE BOYCOTT

From the January 24, 1975 Audubon Leader:

In a publicity release last fall, the Japanese announced that they were not objecting to the 1974-75 quotas of the International Whaling Commission. (Russia didn't object either.) It was a welcome indication that Japan has become more concerned about public reaction to its whaling policies, but that's about all the announcement amounted to. Quotas became a secondary issue last June when the IWC adopted a plan for establishing selective moratoriums on particularly hard pressed species. That is the approach which now offers the best hope of an effective conservation program for the great whales.

The IWC's Scientific Committee--of which both Japan and Russia are members--is currently working on its recommendations for implementing the moratorium plan. Will an effective program be adopted when the IWC meets this June, and will Japan and the Soviet Union support it? We only know that these two nations were unhelpful, at best, at the Scientific Committee's meeting last month, and that they were the only two nations to vote against the moratorium proposal when it was adopted by the IWC last year.

All participating organizations (National Audubon is participating) in the boycott of Japanese and Russian products have taken the position that it is important to maintain the boycott until there is clear indication that both countries will give the moratorium approach their support. The boycott is too useful a strategy to be abandoned just when it's starting to achieve tangible results.

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ANOTHER BOYCOTT FOR CETACEANS

From Sierra Club headquarters comes the announcement that they are going to support a boycott of light meat tuna, until dolphin mortality in fisherman's nets is significantly reduced. They explain that yellowfin tuna, which appears on grocery shelves as "Light meat" or "light chunk", is the only tuna which swims with dolphins, and thus the only one which is purse-seined, so the boycott is slanted only in this direction. Albacore and bonita tuna are not caught "on porpoise" (no pun intended--this is the fishery term) and therefore their purchase is still acceptable.

Thanks to The Towhee, the newsletter of the Tahoma Audubon Society, for this information.

SESPE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT 1974

Thirty people in 7 parties, including help from the U.S. Forest Service, the California Fish and Game Department, and National Audubon, participated in this year's count. One hundred species were seen this year compared to last year's total of 92.

Following is a list of species seen on count day and the number of individual birds seen. Unusual sightings are underlined.

Western Grebe	2	Roadrunner	3	Water Pipit	6
Pied-billed Grebe	3	White-trtd Swift	281	Cedar Waxwing	156
Gr-Blue Heron	12	<u>Violet-green Swallow</u>	2	Phainopepla	18
Green Heron	1	<u>White-wngd Dove</u>	1	Loggerhead Shrike	17
Canada Goose	4	Anna's Hummingbird	36	Starling	99
Mallard	7	Belted Kingfisher	7	Hutton's Vireo	1
Rng-necked Duck	47	Common Flicker	49	Yellow-rumped Warbler	205
Canvasback	121	Acorn Woodpecker	38	Yellowthroat	17
Lesser Scaup	21	Yellow-b Sapsucker	14	House Sparrow	30
Bufflehead	9	Hairy Woodpecker	2	Western Meadowlark	194
Ruddy Duck	195	Downy Woodpecker	4	Red-winged Blackbird	40
Com. Merganser	28	Nuttall's Wdpckr	19	Brewer's Blackbird	579
California Condor	2	Black Phoebe	11	Purple Finch	14
White-tld Kite	8	Say's Phoebe	22	House Finch	1795
Sharp-shnd Hawk	5	Horned Lark	10	American Goldfinch	14
Cooper's Hawk	10	Scrub Jay	222	Lesser Goldfinch	108
Red-tld Hawk	86	Common Raven	49	Rufous-sided Towhee	48
Red-shldrd Hawk	5	Common Crow	214	Brown Towhee	402
Rough-legged Hawk	2	Plain Titmouse	75	Savannah Sparrow	27
Golden Eagle	6	Common Bushtit	207	Lark Sparrow	43
Marsh Hawk	14	Wht-br Nuthatch	2	Rufous-crowned Sparrow	22
Kestrel	38	Wrentit	92	Sage Sparrow	3
California Quail	444	House Wren	5	Slate-colored Junco	2
Mountain Quail	2	Bewick's Wren	52	Oregon Junco	617
American Coot	127	Canon Wren	16	Chipping Sparrow	31
Killdeer	20	Rock Wren	9	White-crowned Sparrow	559
Spotted Sandpiper	2	Winter Wren	1	Goldn-crowned Sparrow	82
Greater Yellowlegs	1	Lng-bld Marsh Wren	2	<u>Vesper Sparrow</u>	2
Ring-bld Gull	8	Mockingbird	54	Fox Sparrow	7
Band-tld Pigeon	6	Calif Thrasher	29	Song Sparrow	23
Rock Dove	23	Robin	192	<u>Lincoln's Sparrow</u>	1
Mourning Dove	48	Hermit Thrush	36	<u>Common Goldeneye</u>	6
Spotted Dove	14	West Bluebird	160	<u>Merlin</u>	1
		Ruby-cr Kinglet	94		

The numbers of Robins, Rufous-crowned Sparrows, Cedar Waxwings, Horned Larks and Savannah Sparrows were noticeably down. All others were stable or increased. Seen last year but not this year were American Bittern, Varied Thrush, Bald Eagle, Great Horned Owl, and Orange-crowned Warblers.

Report by Mike Goodwin.

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Whoopers on the Platte

Two adult Whooping Cranes were sighted and photographed between two parcels of land of National Audubon's new Lillian Annette Rowe Bird Sanctuary on the Platte River in Nebraska, Oct. 30-Nov. 1. It had been thought that whoopers sometimes use the sanctuary area as a migration stop-over point (in addition to the more numerous Sandhill Cranes and other wildlife there); now these pictures have removed any doubt that they do so.

From the Audubon Leader 1/10/75

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The following is a short list of some conservation committee projects during the past year:

- 1) We appeared at the County Planning Commission and before the Board of Supervisors to oppose high-intensity camping at Zaca Lake, the only natural lake in the county.
- 2) We successfully sought the rerouting of an airport security fence so as not to disturb the Goleta Slough.
- 3) We testified at a special session of the House Interior Subcommittee in Santa Barbara on the inadvisability of allowing Exxon Corporation to drill for oil in over 800 feet of water in the Santa Ynez field.
- 4) We opposed the drilling of 17 new wells by Arco from an existing platform off Ellwood in an area where natural seepage is a problem not fully understood.
- 5) We have opposed the rezoning of agricultural land in Las Flores Canyon to accommodate a heavily polluting oil-refining facility desired by Exxon Corporation to service its proposed offshore development.

Michael Fishbein, Chairperson

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MEXICO NATURE-WORKSHOP TOUR, November 1974

In November of last year Mrs. Maxine Oatman, a Santa Barbara member, participated in a two-week tour of Mexico sponsored by National Audubon. Principle areas of the tour were Guadalajara, Lake Chapala, Patzcuaro, Morelia, Mexico City, Cuernavaca, Taxco, Popocatepetl, Puebla, Tehuacan, and Veracruz. Twenty-five persons were involved in the tour and Mrs. Oatman had few complaints about her truly marvelous trip. The following account is taken from a letter to her from Ruth Weddendorf of Los Angeles:

"...Who can forget the deplorable plumbing, the erratic lighting, the uninvited insect visitors,...the bottled water, and ...capitulation to Montezuma's revenge? On the other hand, who would want to forget the brilliant beauty of the flamboyant trees and bougainvillea and the infinite variety of the carpets of dainty and colorful wildflowers and the flowering shrubs and trees,...the genuine friendliness of most of the people, the thrill of seeing our one and only masked tityra; and the painstaking identification of that (one and only) jewel-like berylline hummer; as well as the vivid blobs of color frequently proving to be vermillion flycatchers?"

One hundred sixty-nine species of birds were seen during the trip including such exotics as the Gray Hawk, White-tailed Hawk, No. Jacana, Aztec Parakeet, Squirrel Cuckoo, Violet-crowned Hummingbird, Russet-crowned Motmot, Golden-fronted Woodpecker, Barred Antshrike, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Blue Mockingbird, Streak-backed Oriole, Grayish Saltator, and the White-collared Seedeater, just to name a few,

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DISNEYLAND PRIVATE PARTY

Russ Spowart of Lompoc says that the Missile Space Recreation Association of Vandenberg AFB has scheduled the evening of Saturday, March 1, for their exclusive use. They are inviting Santa Barbara residents to participate. Tickets will be sold at the February 28th meeting at a cost of \$4.50, which includes parking and unlimited use of the attractions.

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NATIONAL AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP NOTES

Membership continues to grow, reaching 316,159 as of June 30, 1974, compared to 268,949 a year earlier. We had 328 local chapters, up from 302 a year earlier. The largest five-month growth in our history occurred from November 1973 to March 1974, the period of the "energy crisis."

GOING TO THE CONVENTION?

If you have been considering attending the 68th National Audubon Convention in New Orleans from April 17-21, the Whittier Audubon Society may be able to save you some money, assuming they can get 10 people flying together as a group.

The round-trip fare is \$278 (from LA). The group-rate fare would be \$209. The flight will leave LAX at 10:05am Thursday, April 17 and will arrive in New Orleans at 3:27pm. The National Airlines flight includes lunch on board. In order to qualify for the group fare you must leave LA as a group; you may return when you wish.

If interested you may contact any Ask Mr. Foster Travel Agency and tell them you want to join the Audubon group tour to New Orleans and ask them to coordinate it with their La Habra office. Some travel agency numbers are: Robinson's Beverly Hills, (213) 274-5171; Olympic Union, LA, (213) 385-9088; Robinson's Woodland Hills Promenade, (213) 884-9682.

If you wish further information, contact Ms. Roberta Kloos, 2630 Shady Valley, La Habra, California 90631.

NICE NEWS

When Canadian blueberry farmers sought permission to shoot robins that were threatening their crops, National Audubon scientists worked with Canadian authorities to show farmers how nets, properly used, can give better protection against birds and can more than pay for themselves in larger harvests.

EL TECOLOTE

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

EL TECOLOTE
SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
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