



SEN. EDMUND MUSKIE VISITED ZOO CLEANING STATION  
He held an oily but live Western Grebe, then cleaned his hands.

## Many Cleaned Birds Already Are Dead

An estimated 3000 oil-soaked birds were rescued for emergency treatment in the first week following San Francisco's big oil spill, rescue co-ordinators estimated yesterday.

Of these, something fewer than 1900 still survived last night in the various emergency bird-care centers.

And, based on similar experiences at Santa Barbara and elsewhere, bird experts warned the survival rate will plummet sharply in the next week or two.

A spokesman for the State Department of Fish and Game, which has been attempting to co-ordinate wildlife rescue and treatment efforts since the tanker collision which caused the big spill, said the survival rate at Santa Barbara was estimated at 3 to 5 per cent.

Experts agreed that the science of cleaning and reha-

bilitating oil-drenched birds hasn't advanced much since the Santa Barbara disaster — which occurred two years ago tomorrow.

A spokesman for the rescue effort said more than half the rescued birds (53 per cent) were Western Grebes. Others included the White-winged Scoter (11 per cent), Horned Grebe (3 per cent), Arctic Loon (2 per cent) and (1 per cent each) the Red-throated Loon and the Common Loon.

Most of the birds were being sent to the treatment facility established at the San Francisco Zoo. Zoo Director Ronald Reuther reported about 1700 birds had been received there for treatment, and about 900 had died as of yesterday.

The next-biggest center was at the old University of California Service Center on

south 10th street in Richmond, where a spokesman said about 900 birds had been received, and "a good 500" were still alive.

Meanwhile, Senator Edmund S. Muskie of Maine, surrounded by about 50 newsmen, aides and spectators paid a 30-minute visit to the cleaning station at the zoo.

The Democratic Presidential aspirant, one of the first sponsors of environmental legislation in Congress said the Golden Gate spill was part of "a pattern of continuing disastrous accidents in connection with oil."

"Somehow we have failed to develop the technology and procedures to deal with this hazardous substance."

Muskie, concluding a five-day visit to Northern California, said the transportation of oil should be covered by the same legislative precautions now applied to explosives.