

THE MONO LAKE COMMITTEE

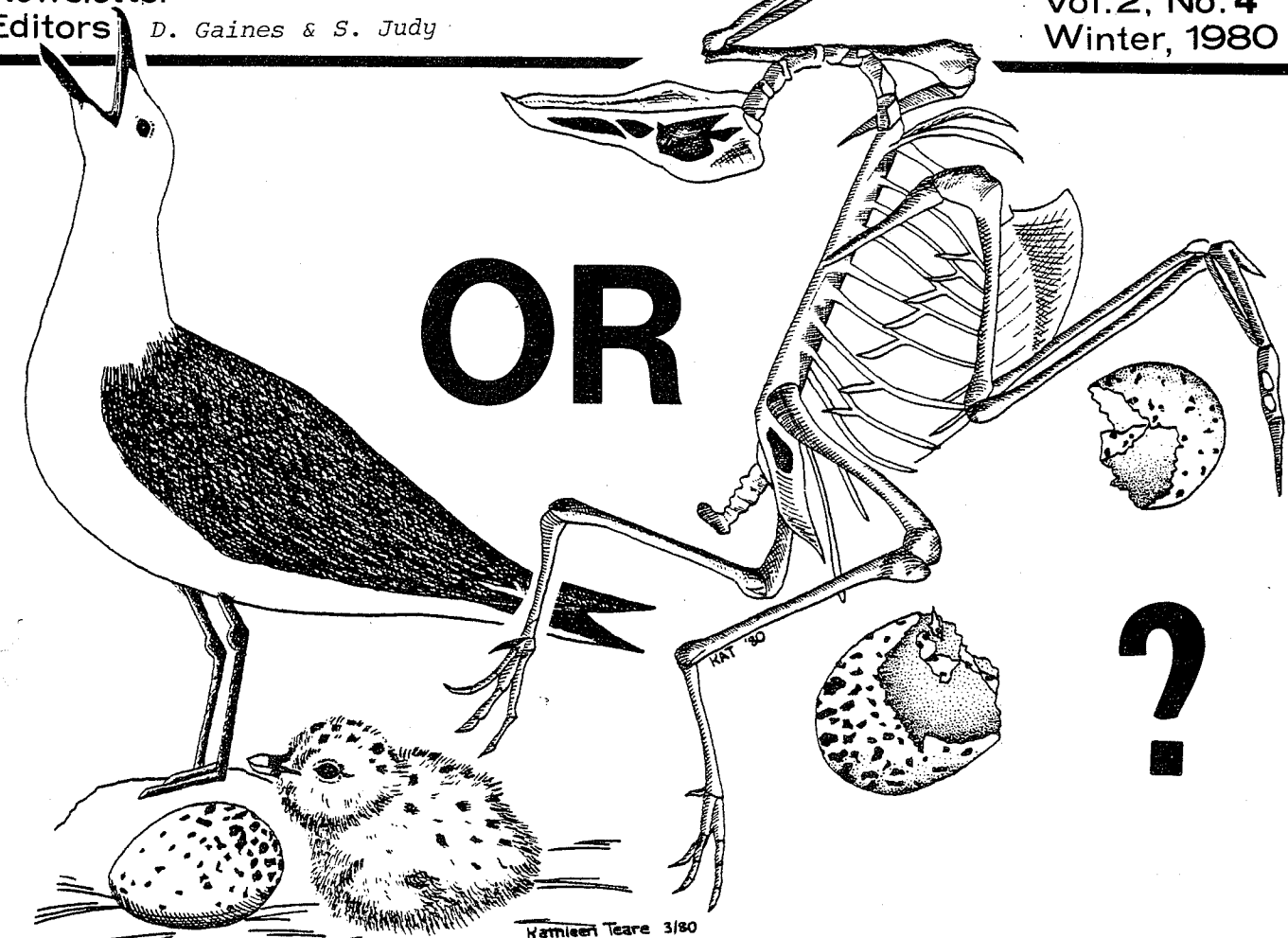
Newsletter

Editors D. Gaines & S. Judy

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OR

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"YOU WATCH THE BIRDS IN THEIR ARRIVALS, DEPARTURES, AND INTRICATE CEREMONIES AND STALKING GRACE, AND YOU TAKE COMFORT AND JOY FROM SUCH ORDER AND CYCLICAL PERMANENCE. IT IS HARD TO WATCH THIS SPECTACLE CRUMBLE TO DUST..."

... Gray Brechin

NOW is the time to contact your elected representatives on Mono's behalf. Bills before the state and federal legislatures will implement or scuttle the Interagency Task Force's excellent plan to save the lake. This newsletter discusses why A.B. 2235, S.B. 1617 and H.R. 6196 deserve and need our support.

Meanwhile, while workmen scurry to erect an "anti-predator fence" across the Negit Peninsula, the first flocks of California Gulls have already returned to the place of their birth. Unless

this spring's runoff is allowed to raise the lake, however, the fence will fail to protect their nesting grounds.

And the wet winter is no reprieve. Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley has rejected a plea from the National Audubon Society "to halt the further desecration of the Mono Lake environment while the people and legislature weigh the Task Force recommendations." As a result, despite the greatest water surplus in years, Mono continues to shrink and die.

The MONO LAKE COMMITTEE is a not-for-profit citizen's group.

OUR PURPOSE: To preserve the scenic, wild-life and scientific values of Mono and other Great Basin Lakes by limiting water diversions to levels that are not environmentally destructive, to further public interest in the natural history and preservation of these lakes, and to facilitate relevant research.

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THE SECRETARY SPEAKS

Not much news from me; I have been very busy trying to keep up with the steady inflow of mail from new subscribers, old members, and people who want information for their school report which is due next Friday.

We are very heartened by the great response to our request for calendar year renewals, and to our pleas for extra donations to keep alive all aspects of the fight.

Calling all Slide Shows and Displays

Do you have a MLC slide show or display that could be temporarily loaned to a nearby school or group for use at a fair or conference? Often there is not enough time to send one from Lee Vining, and we want to economize by using everything to full capacity. Please help me keep my local publicity file up-to-date and accurate.

New Blood

Susanne Luther is taking Sam Mayhew's place as our Northern California Coordinator. She will be coordinating grassroots educational and fundraising efforts on Mono's behalf. All who previously responded to Sam's appeal will be contacted.

Volunteer Energizers

Through Susanne Luther's enthusiastic efforts, a Bay Area High School Ecology Club and Recycling Center will be holding a fundraiser for our favorite lake. We need more of these events, and a general spreading of the word throughout the state and nation.

Get personally involved in the Save Mono Lake campaign. In the coming weeks, our Northern and Southern California Coordinators will be holding meetings with volunteers in the San Diego, L.A., San Francisco and Sacramento areas, and elsewhere if interest warrants. Contact Tom Cassidy or Susanne Luther if you would like to become a grassroot.

Tom and Susanne also have a supply of literature and display materials waiting to be distributed. Please share your ideas and energy.

Oops

Our apologies for the misprinted postcard price in the last newsletter. By mail they are 15 for \$3, not 25 for \$3 (at which price they become fundlosers rather than fundraisers).

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DWP Refuses to Halt Diversions, Dooms Gulls

Fence Worthless Without Rising Lake

Despite the wettest three-year period in L.A. history, brimming reservoirs and groundwater basins, a heavy Sierran snowpack and a massive surplus of Colorado River water, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power refuses to share one drop more than they have to with Mono Lake.

This spring and summer, thanks to nature's benevolence, enough water could cascade off Mono's Sierran watershed to raise the lake over three vertical feet. That's enough to cover the Negit landbridge and reestablish a water barrier around the gull's nesting sanctuary.

But unless we twist DWP's arm, only a pittance of this water will reach Mono-- and, despite another wet winter, the lake will continue to shrink and die.

In March, with much ballyhoo, DWP announced their intention of releasing 20,000 to 50,000 acre-feet of water into Mono Lake this year (they could release 160,000 to 200,000 acre-feet!). Their seeming generosity, however, is a sham, for this is water their aqueduct system is physically unable to handle. They

couldn't divert it if they wanted to. It's nature's gift, not DWP's.

There is no excuse other than greed for continuing to lower Mono Lake. Not a single drop of Mono Basin water is needed in Los Angeles this year. Every drop is desperately needed in Mono Lake if the Negit gulls are to nest successfully.

The half-mile long chain-link fence across the Negit landbridge may deter mainland predators, but it cannot lure gulls back to the "island." By early April, California Gulls had occupied the islets northeast of Negit, but not a single bird was landing on Negit itself. Ornithologists fear that the birds, after nesting on an island sanctuary for millenia, may not be "at home" on a peninsula, no matter how coyote-proof the fence proves to be.

If Negit's 38,000 seagulls are to survive, we must succeed in halting all diversions and allowing this year's copious runoff to raise Mono Lake and cover the landbridge.

Legislation: Is Mono Worth a Penny a Week?

The Mono Lake Committee has joined with the California League of Women Voters, Mono County Board of Supervisors, National Audubon Society, Los Angeles Audubon Society, Friends of the Earth and many other citizen's groups in support of Assemblyman Norman Water's A.B. 2235, State Senator John Garamendi's S.B. 1617, and Congressman Norm Shumway's H.R. 6196. These bills would implement the Interagency Task Force Plan to save Mono Lake.

The same groups strongly oppose Assemblyman Mike Roos' A.B. 2182, which does nothing to alleviate the on-going destruction of Mono Lake.

All of these bills authorize five-year studies. Under the Roos bill, however, the lake would continue to shrink and die while the study was underway.

"If a man were dying of thirst, you would not deprive him of water while studying how long he might nonetheless manage to survive," comments MLC Chairperson David Gaines, "yet

A.B. 2182 treats Mono Lake in exactly this fashion."

The Mono Lake situation has already reached crisis proportions. During 1979, due to the export of 135,000 acre-feet of water into the Los Angeles Aqueduct, the level of the lake fell another 22 inches. Alkali dust violated health standards and mainland predators annihilated Negit "Island's" entire California Gull rookery, the largest in the state.

A.B. 2235, S.B. 1617 and H.R. 6196 would reverse this destruction and assure our children a living lake set in the midst of natural splendor. Patterned on Task Force recommendations, these bills would protect Mono Lake at a cost to Los Angeles residents of 54¢ per person per year (slightly more than a penny a week). They would result in a net energy savings equivalent to about 200,000 barrels of oil per year. Through common-sense water conservation and wastewater recycling, they would guarantee an adequate water supply and a living Mono Lake.

We Support AB 2235, SB 1617, HR 6196

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF AB 2235, SB 1617, HR 6196

The Mono Lake Committee supports AB 2235, SB 1617 and HR 6196, which implement Plan P of the Interagency Task Force, for the following reasons:

1. The Task Force has recommended Plan P as the most equitable and cost effective means of protecting the Mono Lake environment.

2. Immediate action is needed to reverse the on-going destruction of Mono Lake.

3. The Task Force Plan would restore Mono Lake to its 1970 elevation of 6,388'. This will:

a. Protect public health by covering exposed shores and alleviating air pollution from windborne alkali dust.

b. Protect the local economy, which is based on tourism in an unpolluted, outdoor setting.

c. Restore Negit as an island, protecting its nesting birds from mainland predators.

d. Reduce Mono Lake's salinity by 20%, alleviating salt stress on waterfowl and assuring the health of a genetically unique and phenomenally life-productive ecosystem.

e. Assure the survival of the Mono Brine Shrimp (*Artemia monica*), a unique, economically valuable species that sustains millions of migratory birds along the Pacific flyway.

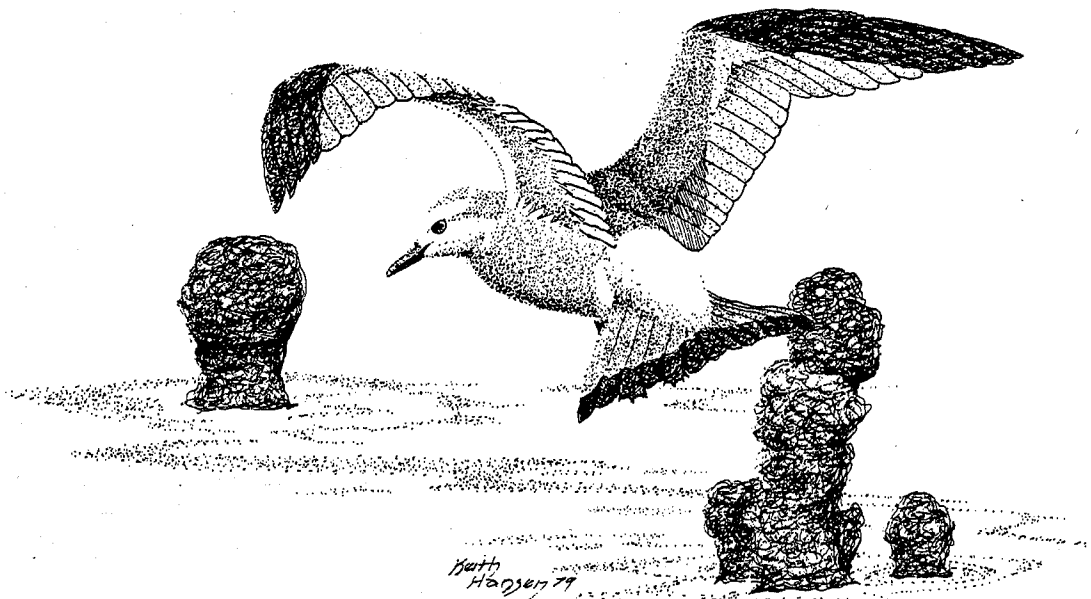
f. Restore the trout fisheries in lower Rush and Lee Vining Creeks.

g. Return Mono Lake to its pristine scenic grandeur for our enjoyment and that of our children.

3. Through a modest program of water conservation and reclamation, the Task Force Plan assures an adequate water supply without sacrificing Mono Lake or any other watershed.

4. The Task Force Plan saves energy.

OUR HEARTFELT THANKS TO ALL OF MONO'S FRIENDS WHO TOOK
THE TIME TO CONTACT THEIR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES ON
THE LAKE'S BEHALF...



Two immature SABINE'S GULLS visited Mono Lake in September of 1979.
(Drawing by Keith Hansen)

Update: AB 1617 Dies; AB 2235 Emasculated by Amendments

After midnight on April 8th, just before press time, the California Senate Agriculture and Water Resources Committee killed S.B. 1617. The day before, the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee passed an amended A.B. 2235 that allows Mono Lake to continue to shrink and die, albeit at a slower rate.

S.B. 1617: CRUCIFIED ON A CROSS OF WATER RIGHTS

Despite powerful testimony from Mono County, the League of Women Voters, Great Basin Air Pollution Control Board, Sierra Club, National Audubon Society and the Mono Lake Committee, and an eloquent defense by State Senator John Garamendi (the bill's author), S.B. 1617 was voted down by a 7 to 1 margin. Most committee members were sympathetic to Mono's plight, but were swayed by the sacred cow of "water rights" (which we believe a bogus issue and another excuse for diversions-as-usual). Garamendi was the sole vote in favor of the lake. Voting against the measure were Senators Craven, Johnson, Stiern, Ayala, Vuich, Nielsen and Maddy.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Senator Garamendi did everything possible to move this bill through a hostile committee. Please thank John for his support, and ask him to continue his efforts on Mono's behalf. Letters may be addressed to: State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814.

A.B. 2235: WEAKENING AMENDMENTS

At the March 26th hearing of AB 2235 before the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee, Chairman Larry Kapiloff announced a proposed "compromise" which, he conceded, would "probably satisfy neither side." He was right. Nonetheless, on April 7th, the Committee approved the Kapiloff compromise and passed an amended A.B. 2235. For the lake, the result is close to disaster... but the cloud has at least a pale silver lining.

As of press time, we were still waiting to see the amendments in writing. Their gist is as follows:

1) The legislature declares that the Mono Basin is a unique resource which is of major statewide significance threatened by the continued export of water.

2) The amount of water exported by the City of Los Angeles shall not exceed 80,000 acre-feet annually if the level of the lake falls below the level as of Oct. 1st, 1979. In other words, since diversions average 100,000 acre-feet/year, DWP must cut diversions by 20,000 acre-feet/year when Mono falls below about 6373 feet. Since it would require, not 20,000, but about 70,000 acre-feet/year just to stabilize the lake at that level, the bill will allow the lake to continue to shrink and die.

3) The bill shall cease to remain in effect at any time on or after Jan. 1, 1983 if L.A. expands their water conservation program and authorizes at least one major water reclamation project. Unless specific goals are set, i.e., 15% conservation over pre-drought levels by 1985, however, nothing substantial will be accomplished.

4) California Water Resources and Fish and Game shall jointly conduct a study on "alternative" programs to protect Mono Lake, including the construction of a dike (!) dividing the western half from the eastern half of the lake. Such a dike would connect Paoha Island to the northern and southern shores, thereby raising the western half of the lake without reducing diversions. The eastern half would be left a dry alkali dustbowl. According to the Resources Agency, this incredible technological fix would cost about \$1 billion!

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Keep helping us spread the word about Mono's plight... and emphasize the lateness of the hour. With your help, we can still change the conscience of California...

Questions and Answers on the (AB 2235, SB 1617,

PRESENT AND FUTURE WATER SUPPLY

The Task Force Plan would reduce L.A.'s municipal water supply by 85,000 acre-feet per year (AF/yr). Until 1986, when water conservation and reclamation measures become fully effective, some of this water will have to be purchased from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD).

Q. Until 1986, is replacement water readily available?

A. YES. There are more than ample supplies to replace the relatively small amount of water (85,000 AF/yr) that would be returned to Mono Lake (less than 0.2% of the total used statewide). Los Angeles taxpayers have paid about \$330 million to maintain their rights to more than 600,000 AF/yr of MWD water, yet are presently obtaining only about 20,000 AF/yr from this source. MWD, in turn, currently enjoys an 800,000 AF/yr surplus in its service area.

Q. Isn't there presently a surplus of water in the Colorado River that MWD could obtain to replace the Mono Basin supply?

A. YES. According to Myron Holburt, Chief Engineer of the Colorado River Board of California, "there is a temporary surplus situation whereby the average water supply on the Colorado River exceeds demand by about 2 million AF/yr."¹ This situation is expected to continue until at least 1985. By 1986, water conservation and reclamation will eliminate the need for replacement supplies.

Q. Will Southern California be able to meet future water demands without the full Mono Basin supply?

A. YES. At present, supply within the MWD's service area (most of urban Southern California) exceeds demand by about 800,000 AF/yr. The Mono Basin diversions account for less than 3% of this supply. Even assuming a 30% increase in population, a drastic cut in the Colorado River supply, no peripheral canal, and the passage of A.B. 2235 to save Mono Lake, supply in the year 2000 will still exceed demand in years of normal precipitation. Only during droughts, when supplies are low and demand is high, will MWD experience a 500,000 AF shortfall (see figure). This 15% shortfall can be easily remedied through modest water conservation measures.

Q. Will more Mono Basin water be made available during periods of extreme drought?

A. YES. The bills authorize the State Water Resources Control Board "to permit a greater export of water during any period of extreme drought conditions."

WATER CONSERVATION AND WASTEWATER RECLAMATION

The Task Force Plan would institute a program of conservation and reclamation to replace the 85,000 AF/yr needed to protect Mono Lake.

Q. Can the conservation program succeed without water rationing?

A. YES. Contrary to its critics, who raise the specter of water rationing to deceive the public, the program relies entirely on proven, mechanical water conservation measures, such as flush-reducing toilet devices, that require no change of habit on the part of users.

Q. Is the rest of California also being asked to conserve?

A. YES. The Task Force asks the people of Los Angeles to reduce their water consumption by an additional 6% to 15% below pre-drought levels, the same goal set by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) for all of urban California. Because of the urgency of the Mono Lake crisis, Los Angeles is asked to accomplish that goal by 1985, fifteen years before the rest of the state.

Q. Will the water conservation program really work?

A. YES. Pilot studies conducted in San Diego and Ventura Counties by the DWR prove the long-term effectiveness of just such a program.²

Q. Can wastewater reclamation really save an additional 44,000 AF/yr by 1987?

A. The City of Los Angeles has a reclamation potential of 115,000 AF/yr. Present treatment of wastewater is sufficient to reuse about 25,000 AF/yr for landscape irrigation and industrial consumption. By 1987, with additional treatment to comply with State Dept. of Health standards, an additional 28,000 AF/yr can be reused for groundwater recharge.³

Task Force Plan HR 6196)

ENERGY

Q. How will the Task Force Plan save energy?

A. When water is saved through conservation, the energy needed to treat, distribute and heat that water is also saved. The Task Force Plan saves, not only 41,000 AF/yr of water, but also the equivalent of about 650,000 barrels of oil.⁴

Q. Will these energy savings compensate for the loss in hydroelectric power resulting from the reduction in Mono Basin exports?

A. YES. After 1986, the energy savings exceed the loss of hydroelectric power by the equivalent of about 200,000 barrels of oil per year. Furthermore, the electrical power generated by the Mono Basin water exports amounts to only 1% of Los Angeles municipal demand.⁵

COSTS

Q. How much will the Task Force Plan cost?

A. The Task Force estimates the net present worth cost of Plan P at \$45 million.

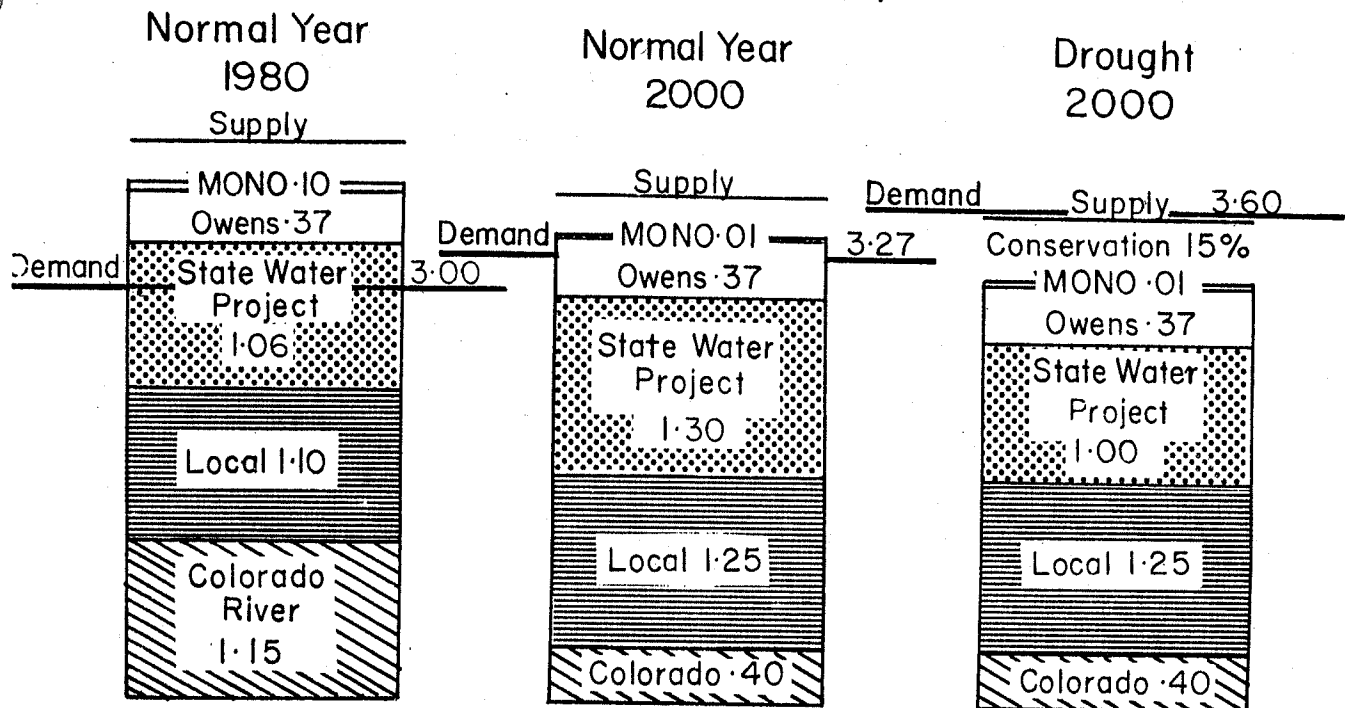
Q. Who will pay?

A. Until 1986, when water conservation/reclamation measures become fully effective, the cost of replacement water will be shared by the state (36%), the City of Los Angeles (36%) and (if H.R. 6196 passes) the federal government (28%). The costs of expanding water conservation and wastewater reclamation programs, and replacing the loss in hydroelectric power, will be borne by Los Angeles alone. Annual costs to the city, however, will be more than compensated by the resulting net energy savings after 1986; in fact, Los Angeles will save over \$2 million every year thereafter.⁶

Q. Will this still cost the people of Los Angeles money?

A. YES, but only about 54¢ per person per year.

MWD SUPPLY AND DEMAND (in million acre-feet)

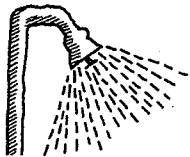


EXPLANATION OF FIGURE. The bar graphs depict water supply and demand in the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) service area at present and as projected for the year 2000. The graphs assume the worst: 30% increase in population, no peripheral canal, and drastic reductions in Colorado River and Mono Basin supplies. Nonetheless supply exceeds demand in all but drought periods. The 15% shortfall during droughts can be remedied through modest water conservation. The MWD supply is adequate to meet all foreseeable demand without destroying Mono Lake.⁸

PUBLIC RIGHTS AND WATER RIGHTS

Q. Does the Task Force Plan uphold the public's right to the preservation and wise stewardship of the state's natural resources?

A. YES. Like all navigable waters, Mono Lake belongs to all the people of California. While the L.A. Dept. of Water and Power does hold a license to divert water from the Mono Basin, it does not have the right to destroy Mono Lake. In this case, where water exports are devastating a public resource, the legislature must exert its responsibility to protect the public interest.



FOOTNOTES

¹Letter to Gray Davis, Executive Secretary to Governor of California, January 18, 1980.

²See: DWR, So. District, *A Follow-up Survey of Households which participated in the San Diego Pilot Water Conservation Program* (1979) and *22 Months Later the Oak Park Retrofit Program Still a Success* (1979).

³Orange and Los Angeles Counties, *Water Reuse Study, Phase 1, Report and Work Plan Summary*, Table 4 (1978); *Final Mono Lake Task Force Report*, pp. 105, 127-128, 133.

⁴*Final Mono Lake Task Force Report*, p. 49. It is necessary to convert the natural gas savings from therms into barrels of oil, and to add the electrical energy savings, to obtain this figure.

⁵*Ibid*, p. 47. Hydroelectric generation loss resulting from the reduction of Mono Basin exports is the equivalent of 435,000 barrels of oil per year.

⁶*Ibid*, p. 48.

⁷*Ibid*, p. 50.

⁸Source of data: MWD, *Water Supply and Demand Data, MWD and Other Service Areas* (June, 1979). The 115,000 AF increase in local supplies results from very modest water reclamation; in fact, recent studies forecast up to 450,000 AF/yr of reclaimed water in Orange and Los Angeles Counties alone (see footnote #3 above).



Along Receding Shorelines

by Dan Taylor, Carnegie Natural Area
Summer, 1979

Up on the eastern divide of the Sierra Nevada Mountains is where Mono Basin's water first touches ground and accumulates in a light winter soil we call snow. June in this high country, when the months-old flakes turn into droplets, is a quick season of glory and change. Slopes directly in the sun erupt into a spectrum of flowers. The north-facing slopes and shady spots still wear a foot or two of snow, like a heavy blanket about to slip off its bed.

For over a million years the snowmelt has flowed down these mountains and come to rest in an inland sea, or huge oasis, called Mono Lake. I once sat cross-legged by one of the lake's feeder streams, thinking of the metamorphosis of Mono's liquid: sea waves turning to coastal mist that rises eastwards as clouds which hail blizzards on Sierran peaks, then melt into streams that flow to the lake where summer sun pulls shimmering vapor out of the basin and back to the sea.

I sat listening to the rapids roar, mesmerized with this thought, until my legs fell asleep. Then I realized what these creeks are. They're the arteries of this land. They pass the water down like blood from the harsh, haunting Mother Sierra to the fertile, annually birthing embryo we've come to call Mono Lake.

Conserving water is a simple fundamental thing to learn, like brushing one's teeth, or looking before crossing the road. It's something kindergarten kids can comprehend and practice, and it's something they, along with all of us, must do.

Why? Because Mono Lake is dying, for starters. It's drying up like half a lemon in a fire, and it's going to leave a mighty bitter taste all over California. The massive dust clouds now rising off its shores are minute compared to what they will be if the lake is diminished to the level current water policy dictates. It's hard to believe that a metropolis of three million people can produce air pollution 350 miles away which will be more devastating than that in its own inner city.

The country east of the Sierra has two eyes. One is the sun; the other is Mono Lake. The festering wound L.A. is creating of the latter will blind eastern California, and make the western half take a damn hard look at itself. California must face up to the responsibility of protecting its uninhabited places if its population centers are to remain viable.

Along receding shorelines I look back at the uncovered tufa towers, naked and eerie, like the tusks of an elephant graveyard. I look out over the water, peppered with thousands and thousands of gulls, grebes and shorebirds. They will only be here a year or two longer... if we don't save Mono Lake.



Mono Lake's Brine Flies

by J. M. Aldrich, 1912

Editor's Intro: Mono's shores are the haunts of a small harmless insect called a Brine Fly. Thousands of birds depend on the flies for sustenance, as did Paiute Indians less than a century ago. This account was originally published in the June, 1912 issue of the Journal of the New York Entomological Society (Vol. 20, pp. 77-99) under the title *Biology of Some Western Species of the Dipterous Genus Ephydra*. The following version has been edited and condensed.

Sketches of Brine Flies by Joyce Jonte

The main centers of this species might be said to be Mono Lake, Owens Lake, and Great Salt Lake--in all three they are exceedingly numerous.

I cannot forbear to include a brief extract from Mark Twain's "Roughing It," about the characteristic fly of Mono Lake, as it is true to life: "You can hold them under water as long as you please--they do not mind it--they are only proud of it. When you let them go, they pop up to the surface as dry as a patent-office report, and walk off as unconcernedly as if they had been educated especially with a view to affording instructive entertainment to man in that particular way."

Adults have the unusual habit of entering the water and walking about on objects below the surface, enveloped in a globule of air. They cannot descend unless they can have some solid object to hold to, as they are quite buoyant when below the surface. I repeatedly saw them walking in this way in Mono Lake, clinging to stones, wood, grass, cloth, or any firm substance; when they wished to come to the surface they did so by letting go and floating straight up, when the enveloping bubble bursts at the surface, and the fly is left standing unconcernedly on the top of the water.

In one case I found eggs that had been laid on an old cloth some distance below the surface. This is not the invariable mode of laying eggs, as a great many of the flies are far from shore, over deep water, and have no way of getting below the surface. It seems pretty certain that in such a situation the eggs are simply dropped in the water while the fly rests on the surface.

The larvae are generally found near the bottom of the water. They wriggle a good deal, but do not come to the surface for air [they breathe through tracheal gills]. The food of the larvae I did not investigate, thinking that it would be a simple matter to open some of the preserved specimens; the operation proved very unsatisfactory, however. In Mono Lake, where I made most of my observations on this species, there seemed almost nothing in the beautiful, clear water of a vegetable nature. This larva and the Brine Shrimp *Artemia monica* were the only visible animals [the fly larvae feed on microscopic plants and detritus].

When the larvae have reached their full size, the outer integument hardens into the puparium. Before this takes place the insect has already assumed the fusiform shape of that stage, and has taken a firm hold on some solid object for attachment. When the larva contracts into the pupa, the space left with-

in the puparium becomes full of gas, so that the insect floats if detached, although normally it remains in the bottom of the lake. The fly on emergence is enveloped in the bubble of gas, and floats at once to the surface.

Mono Lake is subject to violent winds in the latter part of summer, and the disturbance of the lake loosens many of the puparia, so that they float to the surface and wash ashore. The late Professor Wm. H. Brewer, of Yale, made some observations here in July, 1863: "They drift up in heaps along the shore, and hundreds of bushels could be collected! They only grow at certain seasons of the year, and then Indians come from far and near to gather them for food. The worms are dried in the sun, the shell rubbed off by hand, when a yellowish kernel remains, like a small yellowish grain of rice. This is oily, very nutritious, and not unpleasant to the taste, and, under the name of *koo-chah-bee*, forms a very important article of food."

My stay at Mono Lake was July 21-24, 1911, and I was informed that the collection of the fly for food would not begin until about September 1. None was left over from the previous year, so I was disappointed in seeing neither

the material after preparation or the process of putting it up. However, I talked with both Indians and whites about it. The name of the food is better spelled "*koo-tsabe*," accented on the first syllable, the last two letters forming an obscure syllable in which it is hard to distinguish whether the consonant is b or v. "Fat Joe" pronounced it for me many times and I listened very attentively; when I told him it had not been so recorded by earlier investigators, he chuckled and replied in his free and easy English, "Well, you understand I'm giving you the real thing." White people at the lake emphasized the amount of time required to free the little dried pupae from bits of puparium, dirt, etc.; they thought it hardly worth while for anyone to work at it whose time had any value.

Most of the Pah-Ute Indians are now on reservations, and only a few live near Mono Lake, where they eke out an existence on *koo-tsabe*, dried caterpillars and pine nuts, adding a minimum of white man's "groceries."

The loss of my camera with all my exposed films in it, while I was at Mono Lake, makes it impossible for me to give any illustrations--much to my regret, for the lake and surroundings are very beautiful and picturesque.

Last year a busload of Bridgeport Elementary School students took a field trip to Mono Lake. They were asked to empathize with one of Mono's inhabitants, and decide how its life would be affected by the decreasing lake level. Here is one of their answers.....

Mono lake

I am a fly and I've seen the lake. It is a nice lake but LA it. taking the water and we are having a tough time how do you thing we are spost to live.
The end

A MILLION THANKS FROM A JILLION BRINE SHRIMP TO THOSE FRIENDS WHO PROMPTLY RENEWED OR GAVE AN ADDITIONAL DONATION:

DOUBLE-SCOOP MONOMANIAC: Ann C. Getty, Palm Stout
 PATRONS: Mary Ann Henry, William Mendoza, Robert Robichaux, Cathy Rose
 SPONSORS: George and Nancy Ahlgren, Gray Brechin, Mr. and Mrs. John Brenneis, Dr. George Brownridge, Jerry and Jean Corn, David DeSante, R.R. Delareuelle, Terry and Patricia Danielson, Mark and Debra Hamlin, Francis and Alma Jones, George Kibler, Morris Mashen, Marge Meek, Thomas Moore, Rob Morris, Anne Mudge, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Niccolls, Marlys Richman, Julia Rosenstein, Dave Shuford, Catherine Smith, Rich Stallcup, Joyce Todd, Millicent Tomkins, Steven and Nicola Vorhees, Yokuts Group of Sierra Club
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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

ANNUAL MONO LAKE COMMITTEE MEETING

Members and friends of the MLC are invited to attend our second annual meeting and picnic dinner at 3pm at the Mono Lake County Park (five miles north of Lee Vining- see field trip flier) on Sunday, May 25, 1980. See you there!

LABOR DAY "BUCKET WALK" FOR MONO

Join us in another Mono Bucket Walk and Communal Cry. On Labor Day, Monday, September 1, Mono's friends will be toting small containers of water from above the diversion on Leevining Creek down to the lake, a distance of four miles. The liberation of this small amount of water will symbolize our commitment to preservation of Mono Lake and our concern for the welfare of its living inhabitants. More information will appear in our summer newsletter.

BIRDWATCHERS UNITE!

The third annual Mono Lake Spring Bird Count is scheduled for Monday, June 23. It will run just like a Christmas Bird Count (except you wear shorts instead of long underwear).

If you will be participating, please meet at 7:30 pm, Sunday evening (the 22nd) at our visitors center in Lee Vining.

PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS OFFERED

Stephen Johnson (coordinator of the "At Mono Lake" show) and Robert Dawson will be offering two photography workshops at Mono Lake.

May 9-11 class through Cabrillo College

October 3-5 class through U.C. Santa Cruz Extension

Stephen will be offering other workshops during the summer; one for June 14-16 is scheduled, and others can be arranged.

For more information, please contact Stephen at: 235 Highland Terrace, Woodside, CA 94062; [415] 851-7483.

MONO LAKE CALENDAR

Friends of the Earth is publishing a beautiful calendar for 1981 with 12 color photographs of the Mono Lake area taken by Joe Holmes. They will be available by mid summer and sell for \$5.95. See our next newsletter for ordering information.

LEARN MORE ABOUT MONO - JOIN A CLASS

If last summer's field trip whetted your interest, consider enrolling in one of these classes this summer.

NATURAL HISTORY OF THE TIOGA PASS-MONO LAKE REGION

Date: August 22, Friday - August 27, Wed.

Instructor: David Gaines

Cost: \$75, 2 extension units

Contact: Wilderness Extension, U.C. Ext.

University of California

Davis, CA 95616 916/752-3098

Description: A field-study course, emphasizes identification and observation skills. You will study vertebrates and vascular plants; phalaropes, snipes and sandpipers nesting in marshes near the lake's margin; squirrels and swallows living in the chalky white towers of "tufa"; tiny shrimp teeming in the alkaline waters, and the thousands of grebes and shorebirds that feed on them on their migratory journey; the forests of Jeffrey pines and mountain streams lined with aspens just a few miles from the lake. You should be able to hike at high elevations. Camping in a group is encouraged or you can stay in a motel nearby. Food, gear and lodging not covered by cost.

NATURAL AND UNNATURAL HISTORY OF MONO LAKE: AN IMPERILED ECOSYSTEM

Date: August 30-31

Instructors: David Gaines, David Winkler

Cost: \$50 donation goes to National Audubon Society-Mono Lake Fund, PRBO membership \$15

Contact: Natural Excursions

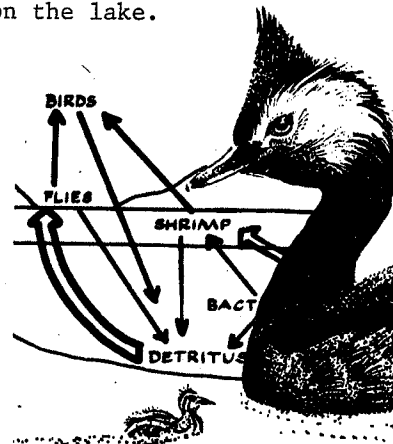
Point Reyes Bird Observatory

4990 Shoreline Highway

Stinson Beach, CA 94970

415/388-2286

Description: Similar to the above class, but focuses only on the lake.



IN LOS ANGELES -

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY OPENS MONO LAKE OFFICE

The "Save Mono Lake Campaign" in southern California is now being directed out of a modest, newly-opened National Audubon Society office in west Los Angeles. Audubon Mono Lake Coordinator (and MLC stalwart) Corliss Kristensen invites all our members to visit the office and get acquainted and involved. Its major purpose is to kindle and coordinate grassroots efforts on Mono's behalf.

Volunteers are needed to help with mailings, distribute displays and leaflets, set up slide shows, initiate fundraisers, and so forth. Mono Lake literature, postcards, bumperstickers and T-shirts are in stock, as well as water-saving shower heads and toilet dams.

Our own So. California Coordinator and Vice-Chairperson Tom Cassidy will be working out of the office as well (as an Audubon volunteer). So be a grassroot, and help Corliss and Tom convince Los Angeles that Mono Lake is worth saving!

The office will be staffed most weekdays from 9am to 5pm, but please call ahead to be sure someone is in. The address and phone # are: 1355 Westwood Blvd., Suite 212

Los Angeles, CA 90024
(213) 477-8229

(NW corner of Westwood and Rochester,
3 blocks south of Wilshire)

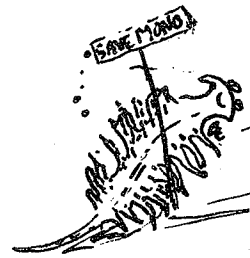
MONO LAKE LAWSUIT: Delays...

And a Date in Federal Court...

Our efforts to secure an early trial date in the Audubon/MLC/Friends of the Earth lawsuit have been thwarted. The court has allowed the Los Angeles Dept. of Water and Power (DWP) to file cross-complaints against every other water user in the Mono Basin. Among the 117 new parties are not only private property owners, but the United States, State of California and Southern California Edison.

In response the federal government has succeeded in transferring the case into the United States District Court, where a hearing has been set for April 14th. DWP, in turn, has filed a motion to return the proceedings to Alpine County Superior Court. To further complicate matters, the State of California has crossfiled against us on the grounds we have failed to exhaust administrative remedies, specifically, appealing to the California Water Resources Control Board.

These actions will substantially delay the case. While the March 24th trial date has been set aside, we are continuing to press for the earliest trial possible.



AT MONO LAKE

a major photographic exhibition

"This exhibition is...a visual statement about a splendid ancient place by some of those who love it deeply. "At Mono Lake" portrays an area that has been a source of inspiration and solace to many who have visited and worked there over the years. We believe there is great value in telling Mono Lake's story with the clarity and beauty which this photographic exhibition will embody".

Stephen Johnson--Exhibition Coordinator

This fine collection of images includes works by major American photographers. Everyone who believes in the survival of the lake should make an effort to view this exhibit.

Tour Schedule

Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, thru April 20.
Modesto Junior College, special select showing, April 30th only (David Gaines will be presenting slide programs as well).
Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History, May 9th thru July 3rd.
Oakland Museum, August thru September
Calif. Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, December thru February, 1981

To raise funds for this traveling exhibit, postcards and a poster are available at the exhibition or from *Friends of the Earth*, 124 Spear Street, San Francisco, CA 94105. A catalogue of the exhibition is in preparation, and will be completed by mid-summer. Tax-deductible donations may also be made to the: *Mono Lake Exhibition*, 235 Highland Terrace, Woodside, CA 94062.

A peaceful haven when day is done
Goat Island in the setting sun
A vacation spot since forty-three
Enjoyed by our family.

A camp in the cottonwoods, with little doubt
That Rush Creek was full of trout.

That was many years ago,
As I am sure you really know.

Los Angeles didn't need our water
Not so that it really mattered.

Now our lake is drying up
Leaving only an arid sump.
For your children and for your sake,
Please, help save Mono Lake.

... Patricia Bradford

LEE VINING WEATHER Winter, 1980

	Jan	Feb	Mar
Temperature (°F)			
Lo	22.6	23.7	20.7
Hi	44.4	48.5	50.5
Mean	33.5	36.6	33.7
Precipitation			
Total	5.98"	5.58"	1.14"
% as Snow	34%	87%	100%
Total Snowfall	40.7"	54.2"	15.7"

MLC INFORMAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT January 1 - March 24, 1980

INCOME

Donations	11,391
T-shirt Sales	925
Total Income	\$12,316

EXPENSES

Office Supplies, Postage	1,099	9.0%
Telephone	591	4.8%
Visitor Center Rent, Utilities	172	1.4%
Payroll	3,995	32.7%
Contract Labor	900	7.4%
Travel Expenses	982	8.0%
Printing, Photography	2,740	22.4%
Taxes, Licenses	566	4.6%
Research	20	.2%
Los Angeles Office	650	5.3%
Loan Repayment	500	4.1%
Total Expenses	\$12,215	99.9%
Profit (Loss)	\$ 101	
Liabilities-Loan	\$ 5,803	
Fund Balance	\$(5,702)	

--compiled by Kathleen Teare, Treasurer,
--typed by Tufa the cat.

SUMMER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Our Visitor Center in Lee Vining is being cleaned, painted and remodeled in preparation for an early May opening. Dramatic displays and an automated slide show will explain Mono Lake's plight to tens of thousands of passing travelers. To raise needed funds, we will be selling T-shirts, postcards, photographs, pamphlets and water-saving shower heads and toilet dams.

Our free week-end field trips (see flier) will begin on June 14th and continue thru September 28th.

We need a few responsible, dedicated volunteers to staff our visitor center and help out. The committee can provide food and very basic lodging, but no pay. We ask that volunteers be willing to work for at least two consecutive weeks (five days a week, including evenings). If you would like to apply, please contact David Gaines or Sally Judy in Lee Vining (PO Box 29, Lee Vining 93541; [714] 647-6386).

GRASS ROOTS FUND-RAISERS BENEFIT MONO LAKE

SOPENCHE, Inc., a non-profit educational group, has raised \$825 in the past four months through a series of benefits for Mono Lake. The Mariposa County-based group sponsored three blue grass concerts/square dances/community dinners in October, December and February. Over 600 people attended the events in support of the beleaguered eastern Sierra resource.

Many groups from the communities of El Portal, Yosemite and other Mariposa County locales assisted Sopenche in the benefits. Musicians, organizers, cooks, and door workers donated their time and energy. Local school classes made posters to publicize the events.

SOPENCHE is a non-profit, tax-exempt educational corporation dedicated to the understanding, appreciation and wise use of the unique human, historic and natural resources of the central Sierra Nevada. For more information, please contact SOPENCHE (pronounced so-pen-chay) at: PO Box 357 El Portal, CA 95318 [209] 379-2711.

YOU CAN DO IT TOO!

We are counting on individuals with inspiration and initiative to organize Mono Lake benefit luncheons, garage sales, athletic races, film, etc...

You supply the idea and organizing energy, and we shall supply the literature and displays.

There is a spiritual reward for all involved.

Mono Basin Ecology Courses

SPONSORED BY: The Davis Audubon Society and the Mono Research Group

These courses, a continuation of the Mono Ecology Seminars of 1979, provide an intimate survey of the natural history of the Mono Basin through the guidance of trained specialists. Field trips are interspersed with informal lectures and evening campfire discussions. The courses convene on Friday and disband at noon the following Monday. Participants are urged to car-camp as a group; alternatively, motel accommodations are available. Enrollment is limited to 15 persons per course. Tuition is \$35 per course.



Limnology : The Ecology of Mono Lake
June 27-30 David Herbst
August 29 - September 1 David Winkler



Ornithology : Birds of the Tioga Pass - Mono Lake Region
July 11-14 David Winkler



Entomology : Insects in the Environment
July 18-21 Evan Sugden



Natural History : Natural History of the Mono Lake - Tioga Pass Region
July 25-28 David Winkler
August 15-18 Ted Beedy, John Harris
September 5-8 David Winkler, John Harris



Mammalogy : Mammals of the Mono Lake - Tioga Pass Region
August 1-4 John Harris



Botany : Flowers, Shrubs and Trees of the Mono Lake - Tioga Pass Region
August 8-11 Dean Taylor



Vertebrate Studies : Vertebrates of the Mono - Tioga Pass Region
August 22-25 Ted Beedy, John Harris

I enclose \$ _____ in payment for the following courses:

name: _____

address: _____

city: _____ zip: _____ phone: _____

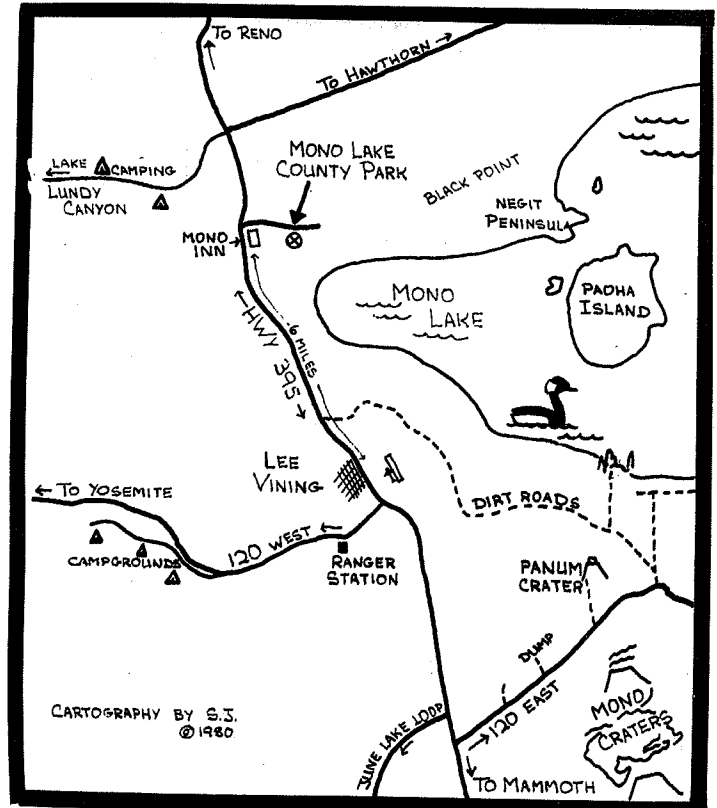
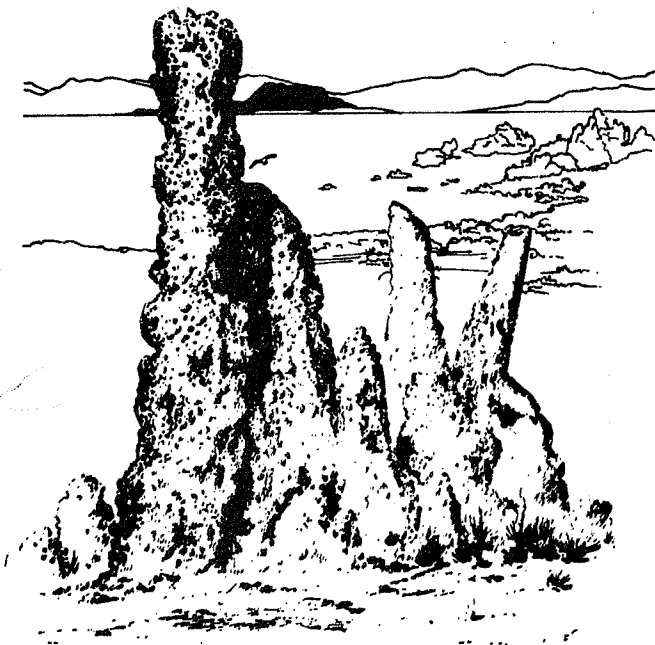
Please make checks payable to: Davis Audubon Society
Enrollments and inquiries should be mailed to:
John Harris, PO Box 273, Lee Vining, CA 93541

____ Limnology June 27-30
____ Limnology Aug 29-Sept 1
____ Ornithology July 11-14
____ Entomology July 18-21
____ Natural History July 25-28
____ Natural History Aug 15-18
____ Natural History Sept 5-8
____ Mammalogy Aug 1-4
____ Botany Aug 8-11
____ Vertebrates Aug 22-25

--PLEASE POST--

MONO LAKE FIELD TRIPS

SPONSORED BY THE MONO LAKE COMMITTEE



SPEND A DAY EXPLORING THE GEOLOGY, BOTANY, ZOOLOGY AND HUMAN HISTORY OF THE MONO BASIN...

LEARN FIRST-HAND HOW WATER DIVERSIONS ARE AFFECTING THIS IRREPLACEABLE NATURAL TREASURE...

Free half-day field trips (9am-2pm) are scheduled for every Saturday and Sunday from June 14 to September 14, 1980. All ages welcome. Please meet us at the Mono Lake County Park (conspicuous sign on Highway 395) five miles north of Lee Vining at 9am or carpool from the Visitors Center in Lee Vining at 8:30 am.

What to bring: clothing to temper any kind of weather; hats, sunscreen, sunglasses for protection from the sun and glare; swim suit, towel, fresh water; lunch and beverage; walking shoes that can get wet.

Forest Service Campgrounds situated in Lee Vining and Lundy Canyons. Motels also available nearby (reservations advised, for information call: 800/462-5572).

If you have any questions please write to: Mono Lake Field Trips, Box 29, Lee Vining, CA 93541 714/647-6386 or 647-6483.

Join us!

MONO LAKE NEEDS YOUR HELP!

I want to help Mono Lake live on.

Here is my contribution for:

- ☐ \$10 regular membership
- ☐ \$5 "I can't afford more" membership
- ☐ \$25 sponsor ☐ \$50 patron
- ☐ \$100 monophile ☐ \$500 monomaniac
- ☐ I cannot afford to contribute, but keep me informed.
- ☐ I am willing to write letters.
- ☐ I am already a member; this is a renewal or additional contribution.
- ☐ Please change my address (fill in our coupon). My old zip code is _____.

☐ I'm interested in promoting local publicity

Please fill out this coupon and send to:

MONO LAKE COMMITTEE

PO Box 29

Lee Vining, CA 93541

Make checks payable to: The Mono Lake Committee

Contributions are NOT tax-deductible.

name _____

address _____

city _____

state _____

zip _____

MONO LAKE: IT'S WORTH SAVING!

T-shirts in blue or beige
 Mens sizes: S,M,L,XL \$6.89
 Ladies sizes: S,M,L \$7.95
 Childrens sizes: S,M,L \$5.83
 Add \$1.25 for postage, handling.
 Make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to:
 Western Education Center, 376
 Greenwood Beach Road, Tiburon,
 California, 94920

Yes, I want to make a TAX-DEDUCTIBLE donation to the Mono Lake cause...

These funds will be supporting our non-lobbying expenses, in particular, education, research and the Mono Lake lawsuit.

Please make your checks payable to:

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY MONO LAKE FUND

-or-

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH FOUNDATION - MONO LAKE FUND

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please send to: the Mono Lake Committee
 P.O. Box 29, Lee Vining, CA 93541

THE MONO LAKE COMMITTEE

PO BOX 2764

Oakland, CA 94602

MOVING? Don't forget to tell us
 your new address and old zip; help
 us prevent wasted postage funds.

MONO LAKE POSTCARDS NOW AVAILABLE

We have just received colorful postcards of Mono Lake vistas and wildlife. A brief text explains Mono's plight and includes the MLC address. Send them to your friends, and help us win support for Mono's survival.

15 cards for \$3 including tax and postage
 THREE CLASSY BUMPERSTICKERS \$1 donation

LONG LIVE MONO LAKE

each

SAVE MONO LAKE

I save water for MONO LAKE
 MONO STUDY REPRINTED AND UPDATED

An Ecological study of Mono Lake, California, the 185 page report resulting from the 1976 National Science Foundation grant and research has been reprinted.

Cost: \$7 plus 42¢ tax; update alone, 50¢
 Order all of the PO Box 29
 above from: Lee Vining, CA 93541

BULK RATE
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 Permit No. 4230
 Oakland, Ca. 94602