

THE MONO LAKE NEWSLETTER

Spring 1981

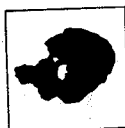
Vol. 3, No. 4



Gathering in marshes and lakes on the northern plains, myriad aquatic birds cross the harsh terrain of the Great Basin, relying on a few strategic lakes, brackish remnants of Ice Age seas, where they concentrate for a chance to feed, rest, and breed.

If the Great Basin were photographed from a satellite carrying life-sensitive film, we would see concentrations of vital energy shining like suns in the vast space of the desert. Among the brightest would be Mono Lake, east of the Sierra at the foot of the Yosemite summits. Yet this great sun is guttering. A sere and silent spring may soon arrive on the receding shore.

... Gray Brechin



The Mono Lake Newsletter

ISSN #0275-6633

The quarterly *Mono Lake Committee Newsletter* features updates on the latest developments affecting Mono's future as well as articles on the natural, geological and human history of Mono and other Great Basin lakes, reviews of current research and recent publications, and announcements of field trips and talks. We invite your comments and contributions.

OUR PURPOSE: To preserve the scenic, wildlife 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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ON THE COVER: Looking east from 70,000 feet across Mono Lake into the parched Great Basin of central Nevada. Note Walker Lake, another lake suffering from water diversions, at upper left. The photograph was taken on July 10, 1968, when Mono was 15 feet higher and Negit was still an island. Reproduced courtesy of USGS.

The Secretary Speaks

We realize that this newsletter is arriving hard on the heels of the last one, but we wanted to tell you about our summer activities.

Basically 1981 will be a repeat of 1980. The Mono Lake Information Center in Lee Vining will be open seven days a week, twelve hours a day. Field trips start on June 13 and end September 13. The bikeathon, bucket walk and annual meeting/picnic are the grand finales as the tourist season tapers off. More information within. Please help us spread the word by posting the enclosed flyers on library, store, office or community bulletin boards.

To accomplish this busy schedule, we will take on two or three summer interns and one or two weekly volunteers in addition to the regular staff of five. Please come by and visit us and your favorite lake. It is nice to meet our subscribers; faces are more interesting than zip codes.

We have a new Northern California coordinator, Phyllis Weaver in Berkeley, and there will be new faces in the Southern California office. Our Vice-Chairperson, Tom Cassidy, will be leaving in June to prepare for law school. David Takemoto-Weerts and his wife, Barbara, will be filling Tom's shoes.

A new law requires us to include the charitable purposes card on the back page. Its purpose is to inform the prospective donor where the donation is going and what percentage is used for "direct fund-raising purposes." Unfortunately, no one can tell us what "direct fund-raising expenses" refers to. A paid fund raiser? T-shirts for resale? Printing and stamps for a membership drive? "Beats me," said the lawyer. We are awaiting clarification from the Attorney General's office.

A tufa appreciation award for Andrew Kieley who not only checked the renewal box on the coupon, but also wrote "renewal" on his payment check. Hurrah! I did not have to spend five minutes looking through the card deck to see if he was already a member.

February's *Smithsonian* magazine had an excellent Mono Lake article with great illustrations. If you no longer need your copy, please send it to us. We can put it to good use. Also, watch for the *National Geographic* article expected in late summer.

Members often write in asking us to send literature to interested friends. We are happy to do this. We need to spread the word and this is one way you can help.

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This issue written and edited by everyone.
Deadlines and paste-up the responsibility of S.J.



A young gull peers over the back of an adult; breeding season 1980.

Michael Dressler

Mono Lakewatch

There's Still Hope!

Late winter storms brought a little more snow to the Eastern Sierra, but not enough to help Mono Lake. With runoff projected at 80 percent of average, not a drop of Rush, Lee Vining, Parker or Walker creeks is expected to reach the lake. Unless the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power relents, Mono will fall another 18 inches in the next six months . . . and Twain and Java islets, where 40 percent (16,000) of the remaining California Gulls nested in 1980, will be connected to the mainland.

Nevertheless, there are grounds for optimism. Our Mono Lake lawsuit, in which we are co-plaintiffs with Los Angeles Audubon, National Audubon and Friends of the Earth, is looking stronger than ever (p. 4.). Chances look favorable for the passage of the Mono Lake State Reserve bill (SB 83) by the state legislature (p. 4). And, thanks to you, grassroots support continues to grow. If only we persevere, Mono Lake will live on!

But We Need Help!

To save Mono Lake, we need to reach the conscience of all Californians . . . and soon! Nowhere is that goal more pressing than in Los Angeles, where we hope to expand our office to two full-time and one part-time staffers this summer. We have dedi-

cated, capable people willing to work overtime on subsistence salaries—but we lack sufficient funds to even continue our present efforts. Inflation, e.g. postage rate increases, hit us hard. Hopefully our summer visitor programs will raise most of the

needed dollars. But that alone will not be enough.

You can help by supporting and promoting our three major 1981 fund raisers—the Angel Island Picnic, the Los Angeles to Mono Lake Bikeathon, and the Mono Lake-Point Reyes Bird Observatory Birdathon. For more details, turn to page 7.

Even more than money, we need volunteers. Get involved! Turn to page 6 to find out how.

Shrimp Hatch, Gulls Return, But Nesting Uncertain

Just before the vernal equinox, trillions of brine shrimp eggs hatched. Suddenly Mono's waters were alive with herds of miniature shrimp, barely visible to the naked eye, happily grazing on pastures of algae. Then one snowy, wintry morning, the cries of gulls mingled with the sounds of the storm. By month's end at least 10,000 were bickering over real estate on Mono's islets. Spring had returned to the lake.

Nobody is predicting whether Mono's 50,000 California Gulls, 95 percent of the state's breeding population, will be able to nest successfully this year. Negit Island, where most of the gulls used to breed, remains a peninsula. A half-mile-long chain-link fence, designed to bar predator access, still separates Negit from the mainland. Last year, despite the fence, gulls refused to nest on Negit. Fortunately, most crowded onto small islets northeast of Negit and west of Paoha. But the channel around two of the most critical islets, Twain and Java, is only six inches deep . . . and will likely be dry before the chicks fledged in July. Moreover,

—continued next page

coyotes were sighted on Paoha Island this winter. They are quite capable of dog paddling the short distances to the remaining islet colonies. All we can do is hope that the gulls survive until we are successful in raising the level of the lake.

University of California biologist David Winkler will be continuing his in-depth studies of Mono Lake's gulls. You can help by watching for banded birds (see box). Other scientists will be investigating algae, brine shrimp, brine flies and migratory birds; our summer newsletter will feature an update on their activities and progress.

Legislation

State Reserve Bill Passes Committee

The Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve cleared its first legislative hurdle on March 24. By a vote of 6-0, SB 83, introduced by Senator John Garamendi, passed the Senate Natural Resources and Wildlife Committee.

The State Reserve would consist of the state-owned portions of the lakebed lying at or below an elevation of 6,417 feet. These lands have been exposed due to the diversion of Mono's streams by LADWP, and include the most spectacular and fragile tufa formations.

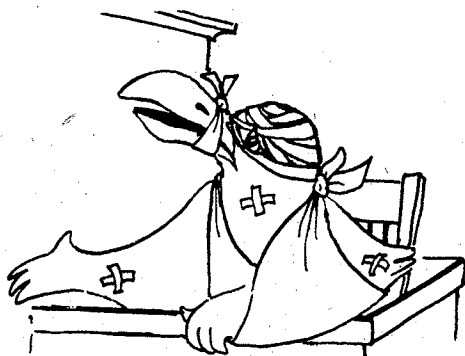
SB 83 will have no effect on water diversions. It will not save Mono Lake. Regardless of the lake level question, however, the tufa formations deserve the protection that the proposed State Reserve would provide.

A State Reserve is the most protective, least development-oriented unit of the State Park System. Mono's friends need not fear hordes of Winnebagoes invading and establishing camp along her shores. According to law, "improvements undertaken shall be for the purpose of making the areas available, on a day-use basis, for public enjoyment and education in a manner consistent with the preservation of their natural features."

Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve has a unique feature: it can be flooded! Just as the reserve will not halt water diversions, neither will it pose a threat to our attempts to raise the level of the lake.

Before becoming law, SB 83 must pass the Senate Finance Committee, the entire Senate, two Assembly Committees and the full Assembly. Then, if successful, it goes to Governor Brown for final approval.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Write your State Senator and Assemblyman and urge their support of SB 83. And please thank our friends, Senators Boatwright, Garamendi, Johnson, Mello, Presley and Sieroty, who voted for SB 83 in its first committee.



Protecting the Public Trust

Mono Lake Lawsuit Moving Ahead

A cornerstone of our efforts to save Mono Lake is the landmark lawsuit filed by National Audubon, Los Angeles Audubon, Friends of the Earth, the Mono Lake Committee and four Mono Basin landowners against the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP). The lawsuit alleges that the unrestricted diversion of Mono's tributary streams violates the public trust—a doctrine of law that dates back to Roman times. The seed of this doctrine is contained in the sixth century Codes of Justinian, which state that "by the laws of nature these things are common to mankind—the air, running water, the sea and consequently the shores of the sea." As traditionally applied, the public trust has protected public navigation, commerce and fishing in all navigable waters, including lakes. In recent years the California Supreme Court has extended the public trust to preservation of tidelands as "ecological units for scientific study, as open space, and as environments which provide food and habitat for marine life, and which favorably affect the scenery and climate of the area" (Marks v Whitney 1971).

The Audubon lawsuit seeks to apply the public trust to Mono Lake. If successful, LADWP would have to reduce its diversions to a level that does not interfere with the public's use and enjoyment.

The Audubon lawsuit was filed in Mono County Superior Court in Spring, 1979. Because of the complexity of the case, however, a series of legal procedures have postponed trial. In February, 1980, LADWP joined 117 new parties to the suit. These parties are in-basin water rights claimants, including the federal government. As a result, the case was moved into federal court.

In February of this year, the federal court ruled that it would try the case, but only after the state court had ruled on two questions of law: (1) must Audubon exhaust administrative remedies by appealing to the State Water Resources Control Board, and (2) what is the relationship of the public trust doctrine to California water law? Hopefully these questions will be decided within six months, although the rulings will probably be appealed to the California Supreme Court. If the state court rulings are favorable, we then return to federal court for trial on the facts of the case.

In a related matter, a verdict has just been handed down from the California Supreme Court pertaining to the public's rights in the waters and shorezones of Clear Lake and Lake Tahoe. This ruling strongly reaffirms the applicability of the public trust doctrine to inland, non-tidal navigable bodies of water. Our attorneys submitted briefs and presented oral argument as *amicus curiae* in this case. The outcome of the Clear Lake (Lyons) case augurs well for Mono's day in court.

National Audubon Society has pledged \$100,000 to ensure the continued funding of this critical lawsuit. Audubon Chapters throughout California are raising the money. You can help by sending a tax-deductible contribution endorsed to "National Audubon Society-Mono Lake Lawsuit." Checks should be mailed to: Dan Taylor, National Audubon Society, Western Regional Office, 555 Audubon Place, Sacramento, CA 95825.

The Living Dead Sea

NOTE: This description of Mono's living community is an excerpt from our forthcoming Mono Lake Guidebook, to be published this spring.

Mono Lake, dubbed by Mark Twain the "dead sea of California," is actually one of earth's most productive bodies of water. Microscopic green plants, termed algae, capture and store prodigious quantities of solar energy through the process of photosynthesis. The algae are grazed by vast herds of brine shrimp and brine flies. These, in turn, nourish immense flocks of birds.

Yet, in spite of Mono's fecundity, surprisingly few species dwell in the lake. The fisherman who casts his worm-baited line into the briny water soon reels in—a dead worm. Back in the 1940s the California Department of Fish and Game tried acclimating trout to dilute Mono Lake water. The hapless fish "made three jumps and then turned belly up." Neither fish nor worm can survive, but algae, shrimp, flies and birds thrive in unbelievable abundance.

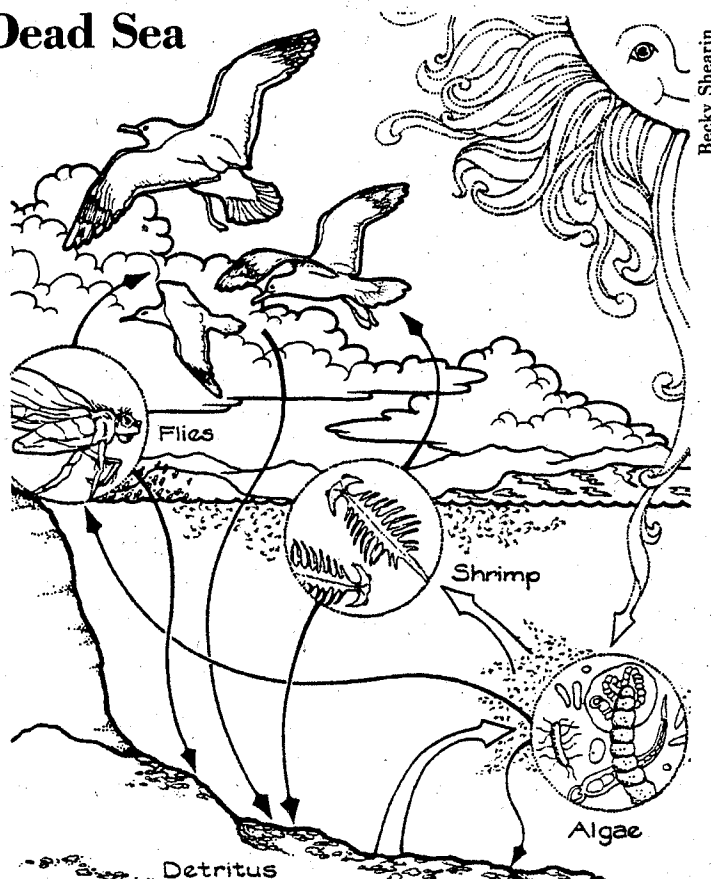
You need not be a biologist to sense this fecundity. Just try to tally Mono's brine shrimp and flies. During the summer months the lake looks like alphabet soup filled with feathery brine shrimp hieroglyphs. At peak densities over 50,000 will crowd into a cubic yard of lakewater, and the overall population will exceed four trillion individuals and weigh over six million pounds dry. As for the brine flies, they darken the shore for mile after mile. Four thousand have been tallied in a square foot. "Their buzz," wrote J. Ross Browne in 1865, "sounds like the brewing of a distant storm."

In comparison, our freshwater lakes are biological deserts. To elucidate let us compare Mono with Tahoe. Both are large, ancient bodies of water born with the uplift of the Sierra Nevada one to three million years ago. Here the similarities end. Tahoe's waters are fresh; those of Mono are saline and alkaline. Tahoe supports several species of fish, dozens of invertebrates and vascular plants, and hundreds of species of microscopic life; Mono supports no fish or vascular plants, only three invertebrates visible to the naked eye, and less than 30 species of microscopic life. Yet in terms of numbers, Mono is a crowded metropolis, Tahoe a rural town. When a million birds crowd into Mono, for instance, Tahoe harbors only a few thousand. Why does this salty sea nourish so few species in such great abundance?

One factor is the lake's unusual chemistry. The cells of all living things, from algae to seagulls to humans, are bathed in fluids that are chemically similar to seawater. Mono is charged with carbonates, sulfates and other substances at many times their seawater concentrations. Only a handful of species have evolved a means of holding these substances below toxic levels within their cells. They "pump" the substances out of their bodies, a process called *osmoregulation*.

Mono's inhabitants are efficient osmoregulators. Despite the energy costs of running the "pumps," they grow and multiply at astounding rates. How do they do it? Have they evolved breakthroughs in osmoregulatory technology? Is energy exceptionally abundant? Something must counterbalance the osmotic handicaps imposed by the lake's chemistry.

It may be the broth itself, for Mono is rich in nitrates, phosphates and other nutrients that limit photosynthesis in other ecosystems. Nutrients, like salts, have been collecting in the lake for millenia, where they cycle and recycle through the living community. Bottom-dwelling bacteria, able to thrive without light or oxygen, play a key role in this cycling. They decompose detritus—the dead algae, brine shrimp and other



Becky Shearin

Mono Lake's Food Web. Microscopic algae capture the sun's energy through a process called photosynthesis. Brine shrimp and brine flies feed on the algae, and are eaten in turn by millions of birds. When the algae, shrimp, flies and birds die, they are decomposed by bottom-dwelling bacteria. This "detritus" fertilizes the algae, and so the circle goes round.

organic matter that drifts down into the lake's dark depths. By breaking down complex organic molecules, they make available nitrates and other nutrients to the photosynthesizing algae. This helps explain the phenomenal algal growth and productivity.

Because the richness of Mono Lake nurtures so few species, they can propagate large populations. Few species mean few competitors for food and other resources. Most of Mono's algae are cropped by only two animals, brine fly larvae and brine shrimp. Hence the number of flies and shrimp, and birds in turn, are astronomical.

Watch for Banded Gulls

Some of the California Gulls nesting at Mono Lake have been banded in an effort to determine their wintering areas and migration routes:

- (1) 1,200 hatched in the summer of 1979 have metal leg bands and either red or light green leg bands.
- (2) Another 1,200 hatched in the summer of 1980 have metal leg bands and yellow leg bands.
- (3) Fifteen first-year gulls from a nest plot under special observation have metal leg bands and three colored bands in combinations of red, yellow, light green or dark green.
- (4) 28 adult gulls have light blue wing tags with large black numbers (11 through 38) as well as metal leg bands and three colored leg bands.

If you see a marked gull, try to note the colors and locations of the bands (left or right leg), the wing tag location (left or right wing), and the wing tag number. Please send observations to: David Winkler, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94702.

Only You Can Save Mono Lake!

Our success in saving Mono Lake depends on volunteer support. All we ask is tireless energy, a fine disdain for monetary reward and unrequited love for the ol' lake. Here are some things you can do:

1. DISTRIBUTE LEAFLETS AND BUMPER STICKERS!

We would like to see leaflets and bumper stickers available all over California . . . especially Los Angeles. We'll give you as many as you can use: Free.

2. SET UP SLIDE PROGRAMS!

Let's keep our 20 slide-cassette programs winning new friends for Mono Lake. Help us by arranging shows for local schools, libraries, service clubs and other groups.

3. SET UP DISPLAYS!

Let's get Mono Lake displays up at conferences, schools, libraries and stores. We can send you materials.

4. HELP US FUND-RAISE

Many of our members have organized successful, small-scale fund raisers: luncheons, dinner parties, auctions, garage sales, even soap sales! Call us for advice and support.

5. GRASSROOTS ORGANIZING IN LOS ANGELES!

If you live in LA and can spare some time, give us a call at 477-8229. We need volunteers to visit legislators, staff booths, distribute literature, organize events, sell T-shirts, etc. We also need help with research projects and are always looking for people who want to speak to groups.

Call For Summer Volunteers

This summer we will need extra helpers besides our interns. The job entails working behind the counter at the Information Center, doing errands, office work, and worthy projects you invent. We cannot afford to offer room and board, but there are beautiful campsites within a mile or two. The work is work, but the setting is great, and it is the best contribution you can make.

If you are interested, please write to tell us about yourself and the weeks you are available.

Mono Lake Coalition News

The Mono Lake Coalition was formed in the Fall of 1979. The member groups are Golden Gate Audubon Society, Friends of the Earth, Friends of the River, Mono Lake Committee and Sierra Club. The coalition will be working on fund raising and education in the Bay Area. It will also be contributing to the newsletter.

The 1981 calendars are still on sale at the special price of \$2 each or \$10 for six. Postage is 92¢ for one and \$1.80 for six. The remaining calendars will later be turned into Mono portfolios, with beautiful pictures of Mono Lake and the surrounding area done by Joe Holmes.

The "At Mono Lake" photographic exhibition has been turned over to the Western Association of Art Museums (WAAM). The exhibition now has bookings in several Western states. Write to the coalition for an exhibition schedule. In addition, Steve Johnson and other coalition members are currently trying to work out an arrangement with WAAM and local art museums to have the exhibition booked in the Bay Area soon.

"Save Mono Lake!" petitions have been sent out to several California contacts, and we are receiving completed petitions. The petitions will be used in legislative hearings and public events as proof of the broad-based support to save Mono.

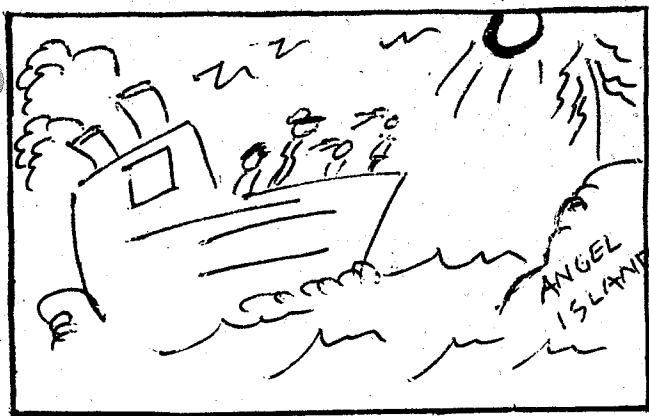
If you would like to order calendars, receive exhibition schedules, distribute petitions, or get on the mailing list for Bay Area Alerts, please contact the Mono Lake Coalition at 124 Spear Street, San Francisco, CA 94105; (415) 495-4770.

Pomarine Jaeger At Mono Lake

In our Fall, 1980 Newsletter, Chris Swarth reported the occurrence of Parasitic and Long-tailed Jaegers at Mono Lake. Most of these falcon-like seabirds migrate far off the Pacific Coast. Now Chris has discovered that a third species, the Pomarine Jaeger, was observed at the lake on September 13, 1964. This brings to 79 the number of waterbird species recorded along Mono's shores.



Visitors to Mono Lake in the 1930s enjoyed waterskiing, speed-boat races and bathing beauty contests. Frasher's Photography



CRUISING TO ANGEL ISLAND

Angel Island Picnic Fundraiser for Mono Lake

Join us on Sunday, August 9, for a memorable picnic on Angel Island in San Francisco Bay! Chef Paul of the Cercle de L'Union (San Francisco French Club) will be preparing a delicious luncheon. Food, wine and transportation to and from the island are all being donated—including 150 chickens from Foster Farms! All proceeds will support our efforts to save Mono Lake.

We can only accommodate 250 people, so reserve space soon!

Please send a donation of \$25/person to:

Grace de Laet
37 Calhoun Terrace
San Francisco, CA 94133

Checks should be payable to *The Mono Lake Committee*. For more information, contact Grace at (415) 398-6744. See you there . . . and do invite your friends!

Third Annual Bucket Walk

On Sunday, September 6 (Labor Day weekend), we want you to carry a container of Lee Vining Creek water past the diversion dam down to Mono Lake. In this legal, sunny walk, you can circumvent politics and help the lake.

The Mono Lake Committee gets the necessary parade permits and will carpool you to the starting point three miles from the lakeshore. Bring yourself, your family and a small container to carry water. Please assemble between 9-11 a.m. at the Old Marina site at the bottom of the hill, one mile north of Lee Vining.

Annual Meeting and Picnic

Since so many Mono fans come for the bucket walk, we have moved the annual meeting to the same day. At 4 p.m. on Sunday, September 6, let's get together at the Mono Lake County Park to plan future strategies. The directors and staff want to hear your ideas. Pack a picnic supper to enjoy as the sun sets. Kids and babies are part of the occasion.

Second Annual Bikeathon Set For September 1-6, 1981

The successful Los Angeles to Mono Lake Bikeathon will be repeated this year. This was both a fund raiser and a demonstration of commitment to saving the lake.

Last year twelve riders scooped water from the reflecting pool at downtown DWP headquarters and carried it 350 miles north to its rightful destination—Mono Lake. Their dramatic arrival coincided with the bucket walkers, who were also bringing the lake some needed water. Pledges of one to 100 cents per mile helped us continue to fund our efforts.

This year we hope to attract twenty riders, each of whom can garner at least \$100 in pledges. Riders must be able to ride 70 miles per day for five days through desert conditions along US 395. We hope to have a sag-wagon to carry our gear, and we will be camping most nights. Cyclists are welcome to join us along the route. We need riders, a sag-wagon driver with a pick-up truck, business sponsors, and backyards for camping in Palmdale, Inyo Kern and Lone Pine.

This summer we'll be sending pledge forms to everyone on our mailing list. Once again you'll be asked to pledge support to our secretary cyclist Sally Judy.

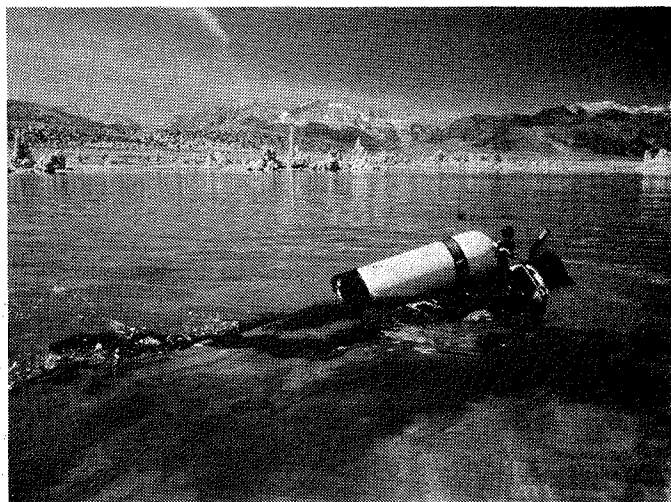
For more information, please contact our bikeathon coordinator: David Heine, 15053 Indian Springs Road, Rough and Ready, CA 95975.

Another MLC Birdathon, Too!

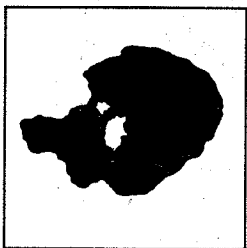
We will again be collaborating with Point Reyes Bird Observatory on a September birdathon. Spend an exciting day bird-watching at the height of the fall migration while helping us raise funds for two great causes—Mono Lake and PRBO. We'll be sending you more information this summer.

Davis 5-6th Graders Raise Money for Mono Trip

Marla Shearman's class has been studying Mono's natural history and politics. They saw a slide show, read literature and wrote letters. But they wanted to see the real thing. They decided on a field trip at the end of May. Their rummage and bake sale received good publicity and raised \$425 toward travel expenses. This group is committed! We look forward to showing them around the lake.



A modern-day recreationist bubbling along.



Mono Basin ECOLOGY '81

Weekend Summer Field Courses

Sponsored by the Davis Audubon Society and the Mono Basin Research Group

At the base of the snow-covered Yosemite Sierra on the edge of the Great Basin lies Mono Lake. This unique natural aquarium and its cradling terrain display an unparalleled array of ecological diversity and richness. Mono's waters are among the world's most productive. Desert life teems along its shores and weaves a web of intricacy and beauty ranging to the highest surrounding peaks.

This series of courses, offered annually since 1979, offers an intimate survey of the natural history of the Mono Basin under 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. Limited to 15 persons per course. Cost is \$40 per person. Additional information is furnished upon enrollment.

Limnology



The Ecology of Mono Lake

June 26-29

Instructor: David B. Herbst

Students will be introduced to the geologic history of Mono Lake, its unique water chemistry and the impact of water diversions. An in-depth examination of Mono's bizarre and fascinating biotic community will include the life cycles and adaptations of the Mono brine shrimp, brine flies and the migratory birds that depend on the lake's productivity.

Entomology



Insects in the Environment

August 8-11

Instructor: Evan A. Sugden

The role of insects in the balance of nature will be the course focus. Participants will examine the insect fauna of the major Mono Basin habitats, including sand dunes, sand flats, lakeshore, sagebrush, forest and freshwater streams. Basic insect identification will be introduced with hands-on experience in a number of collecting techniques.

Botany



Flowers, Shrubs and Trees of the Mono Lake - Tioga Pass Region July 18-21

Instructor: Dean Wm. Taylor

Few places on earth surpass the eastern Sierra in the diversity and beauty of their flora. In this course we learn how plants have adapted to a wide range of climatic and soil conditions and explore the dynamic relationships between plants and the animals that eat them, pollinate their flowers and disperse their seeds. Basic identification skills, such as using a botanical key, are also covered.

Natural History



Natural History of the Mono Lake - Tioga Pass Region

August 1-4

Instructors: John Harris and L. Palermo

This course offers a general introduction to the plants, animals and geological history of the eastern Sierra. We range from Mono Lake to the headwaters of its snow-fed tributaries high above timberline, exploring the intricate relationships between plants, animals, climate, elevation and soil in a near pristine environment.

- ☐ Please send me more information.
☐ I enclose \$_____ in payment for the following courses:
☐ Limnology ☐ Botany ☐ Natural History ☐ Entomology

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please make checks payable to: Davis Audubon Society
Mail to: MBRG, P.O. Box 66, Lee Vining, CA 93541

- ☐ Please send me more information.
☐ I enclose \$_____ in payment for the following courses:
☐ Limnology ☐ Botany ☐ Natural History ☐ Entomology

Name _____

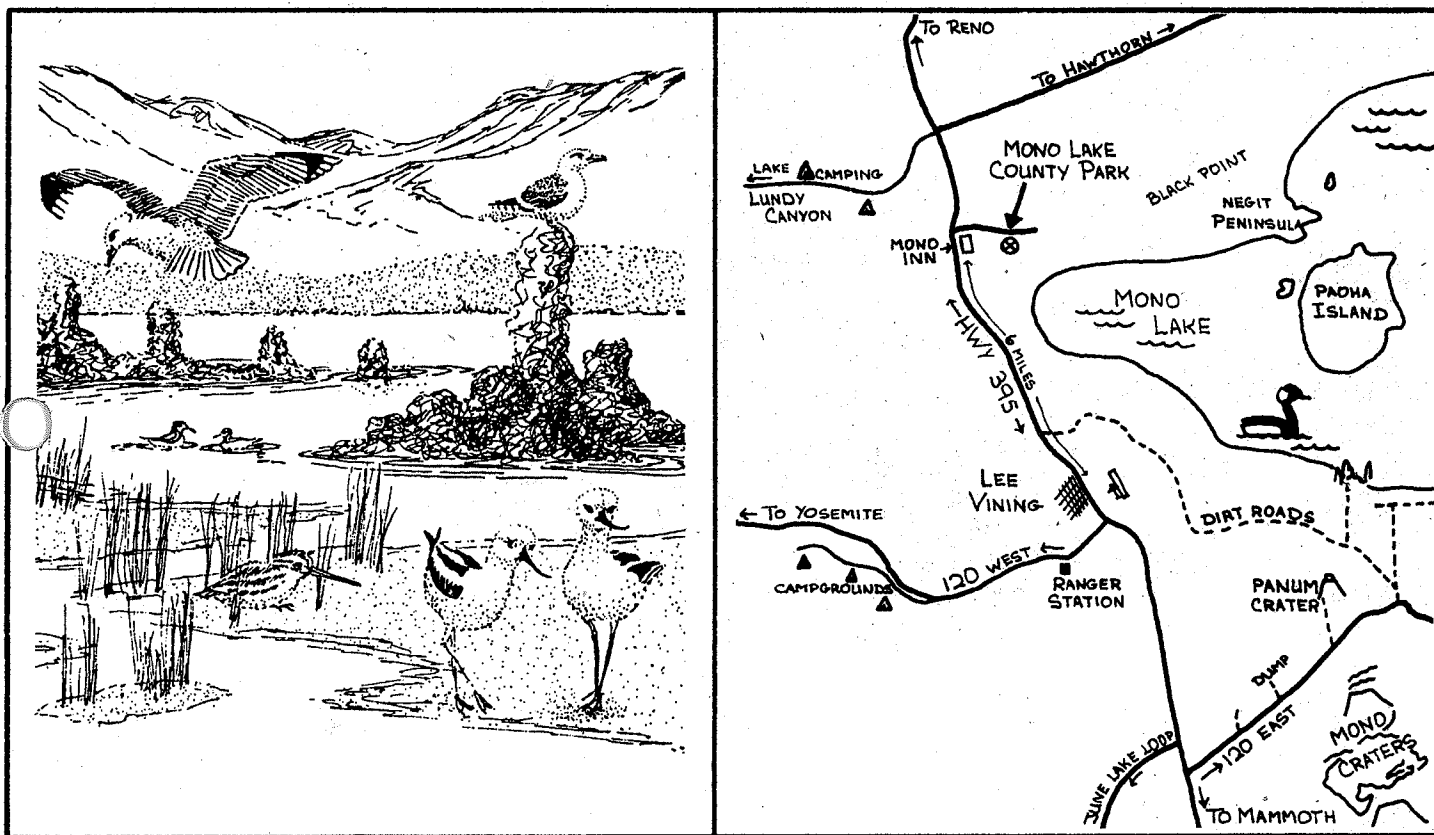
Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please make checks payable to: Davis Audubon Society
Mail to: MBRG, P.O. Box 66, Lee Vining, CA 93541

(please post)

Free Natural History Field Trips to MONO LAKE



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 (9a.m.-2p.m.) are scheduled every Saturday and Sunday from June 13 to September 13. All ages welcome. Please meet us at the Mono Lake County Park (conspicuous sign on Hwy. 395) 5 miles north of Lee Vining at 9a.m. or carpool from the Information Center in Lee Vining at 8:30a.m.

What to bring Clothing for any kind of weather, hats, sunscreen, sunglasses, swim suit, towel, fresh water, lunch and beverage, and walking shoes that can get wet.

Local Accommodations Forest Service campgrounds situated in Lee Vining and Lundy Canyons. Motels available in Lee Vining and June Lake.

Any questions? If you have any questions please write to: Mono Lake Field Trips, PO Box 29, Lee Vining CA 93541 (714) 647-6386

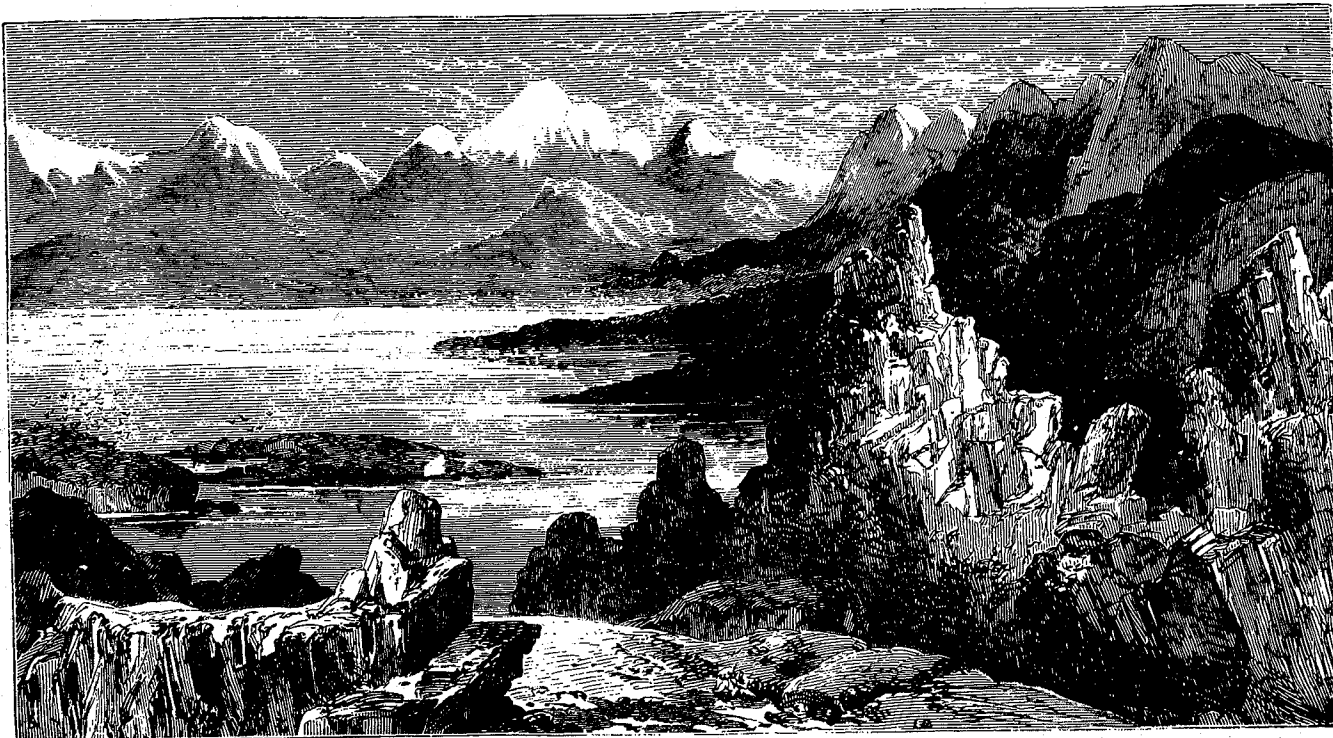
DON'T MISS THE

Mono Lake Information Center

IN LEE VINING

14 miles east of Tioga Pass and 25 miles north of Mammoth Lakes Junction

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FREE OF CHARGE



MONO LAKE.

MONO LAKE --- "YOSEMITE'S BACKYARD MOONSCAPE"

MONO LAKE IS A DRAMATIC INLAND SEA CRADLED BY SPECTACULAR VOLCANOS AND SNOW-LADEN PEAKS. COME LEARN ABOUT ITS FIERY ORIGINS, ITS COLORFUL HISTORY, ITS IMMENSE FLOCKS OF BIRDS, ITS DELICATE TUFA FORMATIONS, AND ITS IMPERILED FUTURE.

Educational exhibits, slide programs and our volunteer staff will explain the marvels of this priceless natural treasure and help you plan your visit to its shores.

Free field trips begin at the Information Center every Saturday and Sunday at 8:30 a.m. June 13 through September 13.

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.

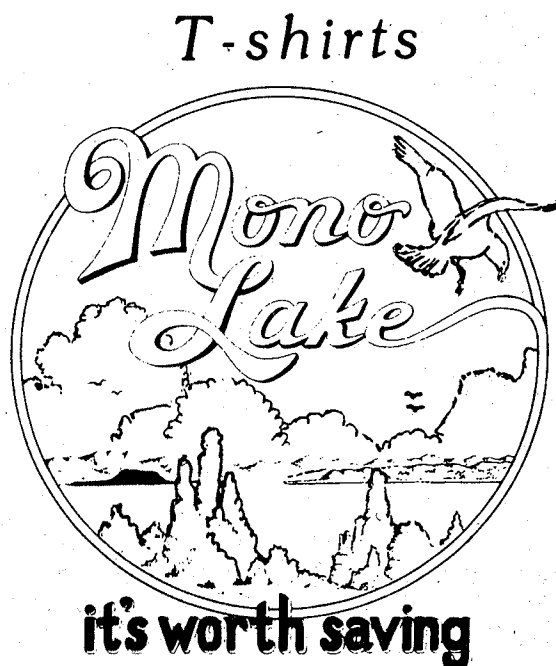
Sponsored by: The Mono Lake Committee



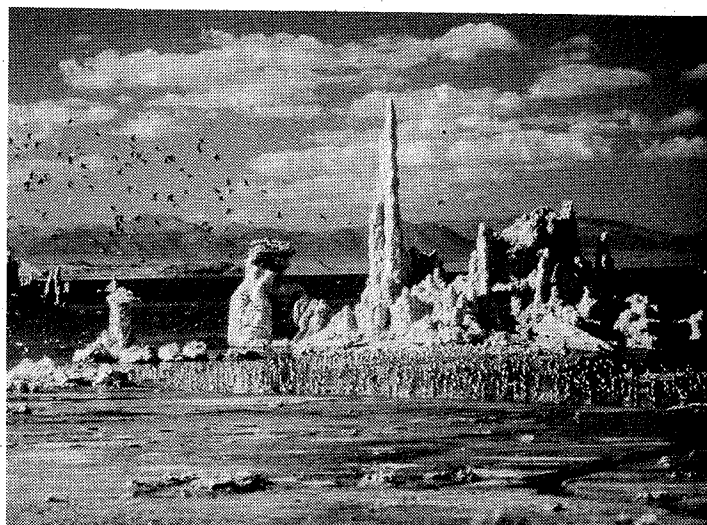
THE MONO LAKE CATALOGUE

Poster, T-shirts, Postcards, Bumper Stickers, Watersaving Kits & Books - All proceeds benefit the Mono Lake campaign!

Poster



T-shirts



MONO LAKE POSTER A striking 15" by 22" color reproduction of shorebirds swooping among tufa spires. Suitable for framing.

\$3.77

T-SHIRTS High quality shirts silk-screened with an evocative and colorful design, and the words "Mono Lake It's Worth Saving." sizes - s,m,l,xl

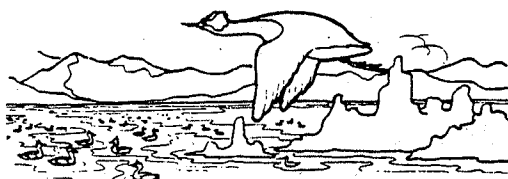
Short sleeved kids in blue or beige \$5.75.

Short sleeved mens in blue or beige, \$6.75.

Womens French cut in blue or beige (no xl) \$7.75.

Baseball jersey style with red, yellow, powder blue, navy or maroon sleeves \$7.75.

(Specify choice of colors)

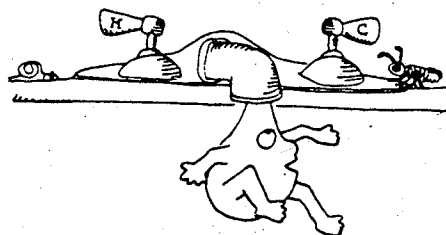


MONO LAKE COLOR AND LEARN BOOK An ecological story and coloring book for children of all ages. A waylaid water droplet tells the story of Mono Lake's plight. Beautiful drawings and spirited texts. Written and published by the Mono Lake Committee.

\$2.25

SHARE WATER WITH MONO LAKE

COLOR-AND-LEARN BOOK



A TRUE STORY

Postcards

DELUXE POSTCARDS Six spectacular photographs beautifully reproduced on 5x7 postcards. A brief text explains Mono's plight. Scenes are: *Gull Chick, Sunrise, Beach, Tufa & Gulls, Tufa Reflections, and Owls on Tufa.* Set of 6 - \$3, or 50¢ each

INEXPENSIVE POSTCARDS Good quality 4x6 postcards with a brief text on Mono's plight.

Set of nine scenes \$1.50

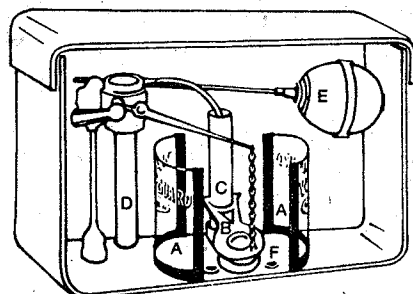
Bumper Stickers, watersaving Kits

BUMPER STICKERS Three to choose from - "Save Mono Lake," "Long Live Mono Lake," and "I Save Water for Mono Lake." \$1 donation appreciated

WATER GUARD WATER CONSERVATION KIT

Simple cures for inefficient, water-wasteful toilets and showers. Kit includes toilet dams, shower flow restrictor, leak detector dye and complete instructions.

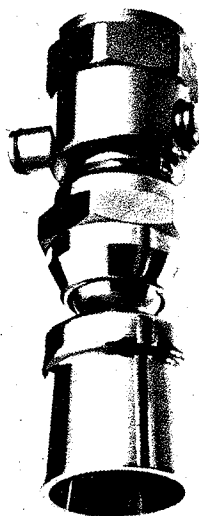
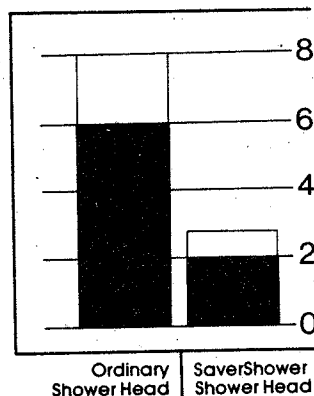
\$3.95



DELUXE WATER SAVE SHOWER HEAD Finest quality chrome-plated brass shower fixture mixes air and water for truly luxuriant showers. Cuts water consumption by up to 75% and pays for itself in lower water-heating bills. Easy to install.

\$13

**Save up to 75%
on fuel...
and dollars.**



Books

BOOKS We also offer a selection of books on the natural and human history of Mono Lake, the Sierra Nevada and Great Basin, and on water conservation. All are paperbacks unless otherwise noted.

Mono Lake

An Ecological Study of Mono Lake, California, ed. by David Winkler. The 185-page, technical report resulting from a 1976 resource inventory. Includes update.

\$7.50

United States Geological Survey, Eighth Annual Report, part I, including: Quaternary History of Mono Valley, California, by Israel Russell. A scientific and literary classic printed in 1889, and long out-of-print. We have a limited number of original hardbound copies priced according to condition.

\$50-\$200

In Press...

Available Soon

MONO LAKE GUIDEBOOK A self-guided tour and in-depth look at the lake, including its geology, wildlife, history and imperiled future. Written and published by the Mono Lake Committee. Shipping date June 1981.

\$3.95

General Guidebooks

Mammoth Lakes Sierra - A Handbook for Roadside and Trail, ed. by Genny Smith. Includes the Mono Lake area.

\$7.95

Deepest Valley - A Guide to Owens Valley, Its Road-sides and Mountain Trails, by Genny Smith. Excellent section on Los Angeles Aqueduct.

\$7.95

Sierra Nevada Natural History - An Illustrated Handbook, by Tracy I. Storer & Robert L. Usinger.

\$6.95

A Sierra Club Naturalist's Guide to the Sierra Nevada, by Stephen Whitney.

\$8.95

Yosemite National Park - A Natural History Guide to Yosemite and Its Trails, by Jeffrey P. Schaffer.

\$9.95

Water Conservation

Goodbye to the Flush Toilet - Water Saving Alternatives to Cesspools, Septic Tanks and Sewers, ed. by Carol Huppington Stoner

\$6.95

The Toilet Papers - Designs to Recycle Human Waste and Water: Dry Toilets, Greywater Systems and Urban Sewage, by Sim Van der Ryn, forward by Wendell Berry

\$3.75

History

- History of the Sierra Nevada*, by Francis P. Farquhar \$4.95
100 Years in Yosemite, by Carl P. Russell \$4.95
The Tioga Road - A History, 1883-1961, by Keith A. Trexler \$1.25
Bodie 1859-1900, by Frank S. Wedertz \$5.95
The Ghost Town of Bodie, by Russ & Ann Johnson \$2.95

Los Angeles Aqueduct

- The Owens Valley and the Los Angeles Water Controversy*, by Richard Coke Wood \$3.95
Dry Ditches, by Marie Louise and Will C. Parcher. Poignant human vignettes from the "Owens Valley water war." \$2.50
Owens Valley Groundwater Conflict, ed. by Genny Smith. Reprinted from *Smith's Deepest Valley*. \$1.95

Geology and Climate

- Geology of the Sierra Nevada*, by Mary Hill \$5.95
The Incomparable Valley - A Geologic Interpretation of the Yosemite, by Francois E. Matthes. \$6.95
President's Campout Among the Sierra of California. Roadside geology of the Mono Lake-Mono Craters-Mammoth Lake region. \$2

Hot, Dry, Wet and Windy - A Weather Primer for the National Parks of the Sierra Nevada, by James R. Hunning. \$2.95

Vegetation

- A Survival Handbook to Sierra Flora*, by Norman F. Weeden. A comprehensive guide for the serious amateur. \$6.95
Sierra Wildflowers, by Theodore F. Niehaus \$3.95
Native Shrubs of the Sierra Nevada, by John Hunter Thomas and Dennis R. Parnell \$3.95
Native Trees of the Sierra Nevada, by P. Victor Peterson \$3.95
Discovering Sierra Trees, by Stephen F. Arno \$1.95
Wild Food Plants of the Sierra, by Steven and Mary Thompson \$3.95

Wildlife

- Discovering Sierra Reptiles and Amphibians*, by Harold E. Basey \$2.50
California Amphibians and Reptiles, by Robert C. Stebbins \$5.95
Birds of the Yosemite Sierra - A Distributional Survey, by David Gaines. Includes Mono Lake \$6
Water Birds of California, by Howard L. Cogswell \$5.75
Discovering Sierra Mammals, by Russ Grater \$4.95

ORDERED BY:

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ADDRESS _____

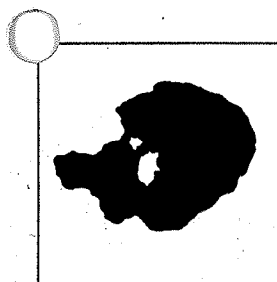
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SHIP TO: (If Different)

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CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____



The Mono Lake Committee

A Not For Profit Citizen's Group

QUAN.	ITEM	SIZE	COLOR		UNIT PRICE	AMOUNT
			1st	2nd		



Please include check or money order or credit card information

Minimum credit card orders, \$15

_____ Master Charge _____ Visa

_____ Credit Card# _____ Bank #

____/____/____ Expires _____ Signature

Ca. residents add 6% sales tax

Shipping & Handl. add 15%

SUBTOTAL

AMOUNT ENCLOSED

Post Office Box 29/Lee Vining, CA 93541 (714) 647-6386

What You Can Do

1. KEEP WRITING LETTERS!

Your voice is Mono Lake's best hope for survival. Your letters, telegrams, phone calls and personal visits with your legislators count! Just a few handwritten sentences can be very effective!

Here are some suggestions . . .

- Urge that Mono Lake be restored to an elevation of at least 6,388 feet.
- Advocate making Mono Lake a National Park or Monument, or part of Yosemite.
- Support the water conservation alternative to Mono Lake's destruction.
- Support the Task Force Plan.

IF YOU LIVE IN LOS ANGELES, WRITE:

Mayor Tom Bradley
City Hall
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Your Representative on the City Council
City Hall
Los Angeles, CA 90012

IF YOU LIVE IN CALIFORNIA, WRITE:

Senators Alan Cranston and S.I. Hayakawa
New Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Your Congressman
House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

WHEREVER YOU LIVE, WRITE:

Your U.S. Senators
New Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Your Congressman
House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

President Ronald Reagan
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Mr. James Watt
Secretary, Department of the Interior
Interior Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20240

If you are unsure who your legislators are, please ask us.

2. JOIN THE MONO LAKE HOT LINE

Let us know that you are willing to contact legislators and public servants at a moment's notice, or organize a "phone tree" among neighborhood monophiles. You will be telephoned whenever your letters, telegrams and screams are needed!

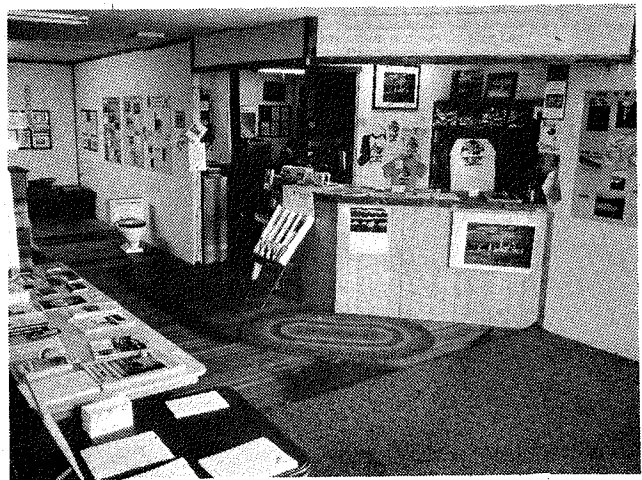
3. SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT MONO'S PLIGHT

Tell your friends. Distribute leaflets and displays. Set up slide programs in your community. Get your local newspaper to run a story.

4. ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO VISIT THE LAKE AND SEE FIRSTHAND WHAT IS HAPPENING IN YOSEMITE'S BACKYARD

Mono Lake Slide Programs

Our 80-slide program vividly conveys the beauty and importance of Mono Lake and the water conservation alternative to its destruction. A cassette tape commentary and script accompany the slides. We'll loan it to groups and schools for up to two weeks without charge. It may also be purchased for \$100 (\$80 to nonprofit groups and schools). It is possible to make arrangements for a speaker to present the program to groups of 30 or more people . . . provided you contact us a couple of months in advance. To make arrangements, drop us a card or call us in Lee Vining or Los Angeles.



Visit our expanded Information Center in Lee Vining the next time you are in Mono County. The center features a variety of displays on the natural and not-so-natural history of the Mono Basin. We also stock a wide selection of books, film, T-shirts, and exhibit fine art works in our gallery. Of course, all proceeds from sales aid Mono's defense.

THE MONO LAKE COMMITTEE

P O Box 29
Lee Vining, CA 93541
(714) 647-6386

1355 Westwood Blvd/Suite 212
Los Angeles, CA 90024
(213) 477-8229

Accolades..... by E.H.

These accolades are devoted to spring weather. That means a lot of wind in the Mono Basin. Typhoon Hilda brought us a variety of extreme weather; Sally and I nearly perished in a localized blizzard. We're thankful to have been spared. We're also thankful that the Mono Craters haven't erupted yet and thankful to be up around 80 percent of normal snowpack (although 150% would be better).

More accolades are blowing in. We have some new regional representatives at Sacramento State University, Mindy Fox and Darryl Young. They came to the board meeting in March and started doing things immediately thereafter. Just sitting through the ten-hour board meeting was a feat in itself. Everyone who came should be thanked, especially our wonderful hosts, Rick and Grace de Laet. Special guests were Palmer Madden, who gave us a thorough history of the lawsuit and a short exegesis on the Public Trust Doctrine, and Mrs. Friedel Klussman, known to many as the "cable-car lady," who lent her name to our fund-raising efforts. Thanks to all for coming.

Back at the office, Simon Maybourn of Scotland stopped by to visit the lake again on his way home from China. He donated a morning of his time addressing envelopes. Thanks, and Bon Voyage!

Great windrows of fund raisers are developing. Take heed, all students of the art! Keep an eye on the Golden Gate Audubon Chapter. They kicked off a year-long fund raiser for the Mono Lake Defense Fund with the Christmas Bird Count. Now they are getting ready to raffle a handmade quilt. Other chapters are working equally hard, and we will try to announce their activities we learn of them.

Alan Jones and Anton Farmen from Kern River Audubon Society have been giving Mono Lake slide shows and gaining new members. Kern Audubon is also mailing out our leaflets with their next newsletter. This good idea bears repeating. We have truckloads of leaflets and are happy to supply them to one and all. Fresno Audubon and Sierra Club are joining forces for a Mono Lake Birdathon in April. Hey! More birds! More Birders! And more spring weather on John James Audubon's birthday.

Yosemite Park and Curry Company are stocking our T-shirts, posters, and postcards. Steve Hickman's beautiful California Gull painting (see last issue) was recently on display at the Ahwahnee gift shop. While there, the painting's raffle funds were matched by the Curry Company. We appreciate Curry Company's support for the survival of Mono Lake. The raffle will be held July 4, so you can still purchase tickets (\$1 each, six for \$5).

The Peninsula Humane Society continues to help make Mono Lake a household word. They send in two to five pages of filled petitions every week. Keep up the work!

Special thanks to Viki Lang of Lee Vining for her darkroom work so necessary to publicity efforts and the forthcoming guidebook.

A Practical Donation

We need a cash register than can give us merchandise and sales tax totals at the end of each week. A loan for the busy summer months would be greatly appreciated.

Loyal Members

We appreciate how these people show their continued support by renewing. A hearty thank you to:

SUPERMONOPHILES: Mr. and Mrs. Parsons

MONOPHILE: Ralph Kunin

PATRONS: June Bilisoly, Carolyn Clark, Lloyd L. Fusby, Ruth H. Peterson

SPONSORS: Daniel Airola, John Sproul, Ken and Dianah Croy, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Fisher, Mary Ann Henry, Kathryn Hiestand, John and Susan Lewis, Hal Mooney, Al Pollack, Dr. Anne Stewart, Jim Strachan, Mr. and Mrs. Von Hein

SUBSCRIBERS: Dave Anderberg, Clarence Baker, Linda Belluomini, Susan Cleasby, Harriet Denlay, Mrs. Daphne Dunn, Emily Durbin, Jean Durick, Laura Dutton, Rollin Enfield, Dorothy and John Erskine, Stuart Farwell, Brian Fewer, Frank Harris, Alan Houser, George Hubert, Betty Kenneday, Andrew Kielty, Larry Liebman, Elizabeth Linscott, Marie Mans, Greg Magruder, Gina Matheson, Richard May, Marianne McDermott, Adriana Mulder, Elizabeth Ortega, Robert Pegg, Eithne Sax, Jacob Sigg, Meryl Sundove, Stan Tysell, Erna Renoud, Mr. and Mrs. Von Hein, Matt Walker, Susan Walker, Scott Westerholm, Melinda Worman

Save the Meadows, (a Mammoth Lakes group) has donated its closing balance to the MLC. Thank you, Mammoth Lakes supporters.

Memorial Contribution

We wish to thank Professor and Mrs. Hans Lewry for a generous contribution in memory of Julie Stitt, who despite failing health gave time and energy to keep Mono Lake alive.

MONO LAKE COMMITTEE INFORMAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1 JANUARY - 31 MARCH 1981

INCOME	
Retail Sales	5,053
Wholesale Sales	1,166
Donations & Memberships	13,381
National Audubon Society	8,000
TOTAL	\$27,600
EXPENDITURES	
Cost of Resale Merchandise	4,688
Office Expenses & Supplies	1,109
Postage	845
Telephone	1,361
Printing	809
Photography	105
Rent, Utilities, Maintenance	1,288
Typewriter Rent & Maintenance	727
Payroll	9,106
Payroll Tax	1,356
Sales Tax	576
Insurance	630
Travel Expenses	755
Fundraising Costs	69
Advertisements	25
Loan	1,200
TOTAL	\$24,650
LIABILITIES - Loan	\$5,000

Join US! Mono Lake Needs Your Help

The Mono Lake Committee is a not-for-profit citizen's group dedicated to the preservation of Mono and other Great Basin lakes, and to the wise use of our water and energy resources.

- ☐ I would like to join the Mono Lake Committee
☐ Please renew my membership

Name _____

Mailing address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone Area Code _____

IMPORTANT: If you are renewing and have changed your address during the past year, please include your OLD ZIP CODE here: _____

HERE IS MY CONTRIBUTION FOR:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Regular Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Patron |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$5 "I Can't Afford More" Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 or more Monomaniac |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Sponsor | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Monophile | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am willing to write letters! | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am willing to visit my legislators for the cause! | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I would like to volunteer my time, please call! | |

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
Mono Lake Committee

Post Office Box 29 Lee Vining, California 93541

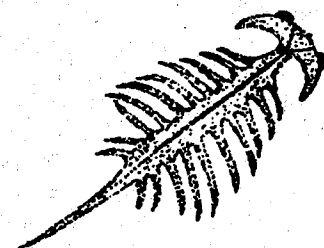
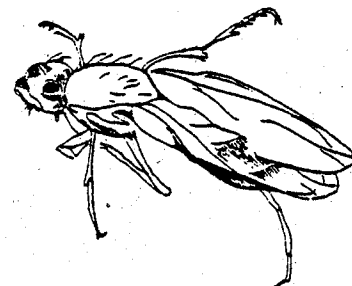
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MONO LAKE COMMITTEE ARE NOT TAX DEDUCTIBLE

However, you can make a tax deductible contribution for education, research and legal expenses by making your check payable to:

National Audubon Society/Mono Lake Fund

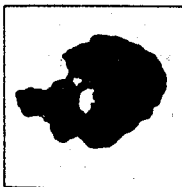
OR

Friends of the Earth Foundation/Mono Lake Fund



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1. Mono Lake Committee, P.O. Box 29, Lee Vining, CA 93541
2. One hundred percent of your donation payable to the Mono Lake Committee goes to the Mono Lake Committee
3. Approximately ten percent of our total expenditures are spent on fund raising, e.g. printing, stamps, staff time, etc.
4. Thirty to forty percent of the purchase price of merchandise goes directly to the Mono Lake Committee; sixty to seventy percent is for the cost of the goods.
5. Contributions to the Mono Lake Committee are not tax-deductible.



**The
Mono Lake
Committee**

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