

THE MONO LAKE NEWSLETTER

Summer 1983

Vol. 6, No. 1



Mono Rising

Monument Becomes Scenic Area

Court Asked To Curtail Diversions

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ON THE COVER: Stephen Johnson's radiant photograph of Mono Lake's south shore. Steve is the curator of the *At Mono Lake* exhibition, which may be viewed at the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco through Oct. 16. He has just produced an exhibition catalogue, which includes 16 color and 49 black-and-white reproductions of photographs by Ansel Adams, Brett Weston, Phillip Hyde and many others. It is available for \$12.95 from the Mono Lake Committee (see page 15).



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Congress should create a national monument . . . but it is up to Los Angeles and the state of California to ensure that it is . . . not a memorial . . .

—Congressman Richard Lehman

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Mono Rising



Larry Ford

Negit Island reborn! Since June, when this photograph was taken, the rising lake has submerged still more of the land bridge.

Torrents of water—about 1,200 acre-feet per day—continue to tumble down Rush and Lee Vining creeks into Mono Lake. Record-setting runoff is forcing the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) to let about 150,000 acre-feet slip past its diversion dams in 1983. Thanks to this transfusion, the lake is higher and healthier than it's been in years.

During the past 18 months, Mono has risen 5½ feet to a July elevation of 6,377 feet. It is expected to rise another foot by August. The lake was last this high in 1976.

The rising water has resurrected Negit Island, but not its gull rookery. The channel separating Negit from the mainland has grown to 100 yards in width and two feet in depth, marooning at least one coyote. Perhaps this explains why gulls, routed by coyotes four years ago when the island became a peninsula, have yet to return.

With Negit still deserted, numbers of nesting gulls remained below 1976-78 levels. On July 11, the "interagency

census team" estimated 16,300 chicks, three times last year's total, but less than half of the 35,800 estimated in 1976.

Nevertheless gulls, and brine shrimp too, seem to be recovering as the lake rises. Spring brine shrimp populations were up over last year, though still below 1979 numbers.

Besides rejuvenating the ecosystem, the rising water is giving the lake a facelift. It is covering muck and alkali, lapping at the feet of tufa spires and restoring a beauty we feared had been lost forever.

For all this, thanks go to Mother Nature. During the past winter, precipitation exceeded 200 percent of average throughout California. The water year runoff (October-September) is expected to reach 240 percent of average. As a result, DWP is faced with an embarrassment of riches—more water than its aqueduct can handle. Since October of last year, it has been unable to export a single

drop from the Mono Basin.

But the idyll is coming to an end. Beginning in September, DWP intends to resume its diversions from Mono Lake's tributary streams. By next summer, it plans to shunt about 85,000 acre-feet away from the lake and into the Los Angeles Aqueduct.

Is this water needed? L.A.'s alternative sources, the Colorado River and the State Water Project, have more water than anyone knows what to do with. For example, the Colorado is pouring over Hoover Dam's spillways for the first time in its 42-year history. In the San Joaquin Valley, about 100,000 acres of the old Tulare Lake bed, drained for agriculture seven decades ago, are flooded. Virtually limitless water is available at much lower ("interruptible") rates than DWP claims.

Moreover the San Fernando Groundwater basin, a vast underground reservoir from which DWP obtains about 15 percent of its supply, contains over 135,000 acre-feet of surplus water that is available at low cost.

Yet despite brimming reservoirs and copious water surpluses, DWP intends to take every drop it possibly can from Mono Lake's tributaries. Why? Because it costs less than that from other sources, and generates lucrative hydropower as it flows down the aqueduct. Thus, even when alternative water is plentiful, it profits DWP to squeeze all it can from the Mono Basin. That is, so long as it doesn't have to pay for devastating the lake and the surrounding basin.

Moreover DWP has failed to implement simple, proven water conservation measures that could save water every year. According to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), low-flush toilets, low-flow shower heads and water-efficient landscaping and irrigation could reduce Los Angeles' water consumption 17 percent by 1990

and 24 percent by the turn of the century—more than enough to save Mono Lake.*

But DWP's half-hearted conservation efforts have even kept L.A.'s consumption from climbing to record high levels. DWP wants to sell water, not conserve it.

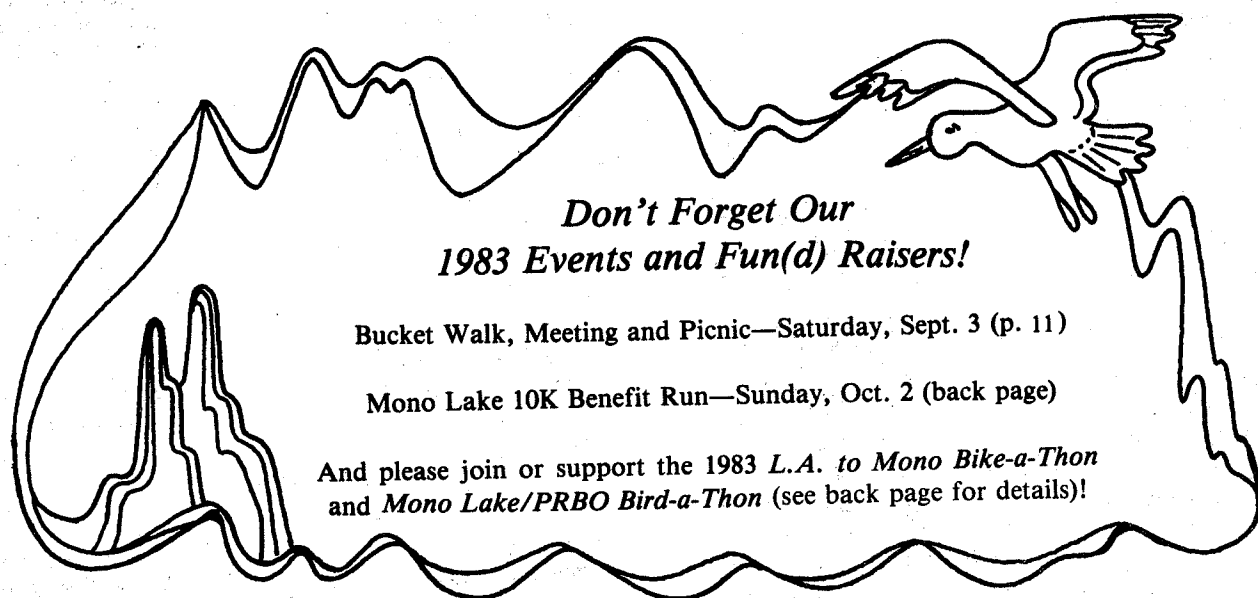
Our challenge is to turn DWP—and all Americans—into watershed housekeepers, responsive to the health of the land from which we draw our sustenance and health.

The February decision of the California Supreme Court, which affirmed the public interest in protecting "the people's common heritage of streams, lakes, marshlands and tidelands," was a step in this direction. So was Bill Gilbert's sensitive article in the May 30 issue of *Sports Illustrated*, which perceived Mono Lake as a test of "the character of our humanity and the obligations it entails to acknowledge and respect mysterious nature, the elements we did not create, the forms we cannot replace and the forces whose functions and purposes we do not comprehend."

Thanks to the court, a pair of wet winters and your help and generosity, the tide is slowly turning in Mono Lake's favor. The *Los Angeles Times*, in a May 29 editorial, called the lake "a resource that is as unique as it is vulnerable," and urged DWP to "plan now for the probability that it will have to replace a significant portion of Mono water from other sources."

Water is Mono Lake's lifeblood. Streams are its arteries. With your continued support, Rush and Lee Vining creeks can nurture a living lake in years to come.

*Calif. Dept. Water Resources, So. District. 1977. *Effect of water conservation on south district urban water demand.*



Compromise Turns Monument Into Scenic Area

Congressman Richard Lehman's Mono Lake National Monument bill, H.R. 1341, ran into high-level opposition at a House subcommittee hearing in Washington, D.C. June 2, but a Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area rose from the ashes. It differs from the monument in little more than name.

"Congress should create a national monument to preserve a unique piece of our American landscape," Lehman told the subcommittee, "but it is up to Los Angeles and the state of California to ensure that it is a monument, not a memorial."

Los Angeles officials, however, attacked the monument on the grounds it would weaken the city's legal position and jeopardize its diversions from Mono Lake's tributary streams. Siding with Los Angeles were the Reagan administration, California Governor George Deukmejian, Senator Pete Wilson and 14 Southern California congressmen.

"With that group of people opposed to this bill, I don't think it's going to get very far," conceded Rep. John F. Seiberling (D-Ohio), chairman of the House Interior Subcommittee on Public Lands and National Parks, and one of the bill's 84 co-sponsors.

Upon questioning by Seiberling, however, it became apparent that Los Angeles' objections were semantic rather than substantive. L.A. did not oppose protecting federal lands around Mono Lake, providing those lands were not elevated to "national monument" status.

So Lehman and Seiberling negotiated a compromise that would declare the Mono Lake region a "national scenic area." Los Angeles, placated by the name change and other modifications, withdrew its opposition. On July 18, the amended bill passed the House of Representatives on a voice vote. It moves next to the Senate, where Alan Cranston has already introduced national monument legislation.

To satisfy Los Angeles, the amended bill changes the designation from Mono Lake National Monument to Mono Basin Na-

tional Forest Scenic Area, deletes the water use study, and adds language clarifying that water rights are not affected.

The 67,000-acre National Scenic Area will still protect the esthetic and ecological values of Mono Lake's islands, shores, most of the Mono Craters and part of the Sierran escarpment from geothermal development, timber harvesting, expanded mining operations and other forms of industrial intrusion. It will prohibit their sale to Los Angeles, repealing a 1936 "special interest" law. It will authorize construction of a visitor center and the development of campgrounds, trails and interpretive facilities. It will introduce hundreds of thousands of visitors to Mono's natural beauty, winning the lake new friends and supporters.

"Los Angeles has given a little and we've given a little," MLC Executive Director Ed Grosswiler told the *Los Angeles Times*. "This is the first time DWP has acknowledged that there's something worth saving at Mono Lake."

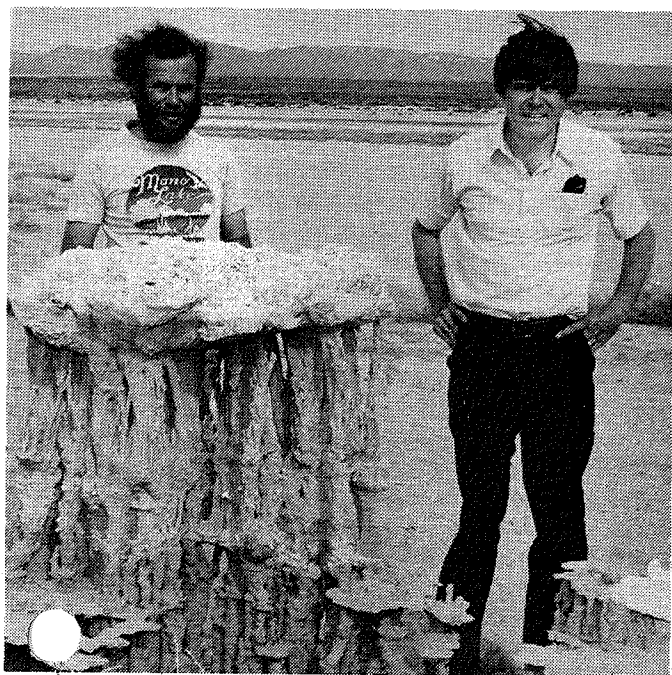
WHAT YOU CAN DO: Please urge your senators to support legislation to protect Mono Lake. If your congressman is one of the following 84 co-sponsors of H.R. 1341, let him know you appreciate his position:

CALIFORNIA

Bates	Dellums	Mineta
Beilenson	Edwards	Panetta
Berman	Fazio	Patterson
Boxco	Lagomarsino	Shumway
Boxer	Lantos	Stark
Brown	Levine	Thomas
Chappie	Matsui	Zschau
	Miller	

OUTSIDE CALIFORNIA

Akaka (Hawaii)	Lowry (Washington)
AuCoin (Oregon)	Markey (Massachusetts)
Bedell (Alabama)	McCain (Arizona)
Bereuter (Nebraska)	McNulty (Arizona)
Boucher (Virginia)	Moakley (Massachusetts)
Bryant (Texas)	Moody (Wisconsin)
Byron (Maryland)	Morrison (Connecticut)
Clarke (N. Carolina)	Mrazek (New York)
Conyers (Michigan)	Olin (Virginia)
Corrada (Puerto Rico)	Ottinger (New York)
De Lugo (Virgin Islands)	Owens (New York)
Donnelly (Massachusetts)	Rahall (W. Virginia)
Edgar (Pennsylvania)	Reid (Nevada)
Fauntroy (Washington, D.C.)	Richardson (New Mexico)
Fish (New York)	Roe (New Jersey)
Foglietta (Pennsylvania)	Schneider (Rhode Island)
Ford (Tennessee)	Schumer (New York)
Forsythe (New Jersey)	Seiberling (Ohio)
Frank (Massachusetts)	Smith (Florida)
Jeffords (Vermont)	Solarz (New York)
Geidenson (Connecticut)	Swift (Washington)
Hall (Indiana)	Torricelli (New Jersey)
Hatcher (Georgia)	Towns (New York)
Hertel (Michigan)	Vucanovich (Nevada)
Hughes (New Jersey)	Weaver (Oregon)
Hutto (Florida)	Weiss (New York)
Kaptur (Ohio)	Wise (W. Virginia)
Kildee (Michigan)	Wolpe (Michigan)
Kostmayer (Pennsylvania)	Won Pat (Guam)
Lehman (Florida)	Wyden (Oregon)
Leland (Texas)	



Congressman Richard Lehman, author of the Mono Lake National Monument legislation, explores Mono's south shore with MLC Chairman David Gaines.

Court Asked To Curtail Diversions

For at least the next 12 months, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) may not be allowed to divert as much as it wants from Mono's tributary streams. The National Audubon Society, Mono Lake Committee, Los Angeles Audubon Society, Friends of the Earth and fellow "public trust" plaintiffs have asked a federal judge for a preliminary injunction that would stabilize the lake at a level of 6,378 feet through Aug. 1, 1984. To maintain this level—which would keep Negit an island through next year's gull nesting season—DWP may have to relinquish up to 20,000 acre-feet of water between now and next July.

In an elegant motion that relied heavily on the California Supreme Court's landmark "public trust" decision, our lawyers argued for stabilizing Mono Lake until the litigation is resolved:

The Supreme Court upheld Audubon's arguments that the DWP water permits were granted without any consideration of competing public trust values. The present diversions, accordingly, have not been properly authorized and, until an appropriate weighing occurs, should be limited to an amount that does not impair substantial public trust values. It may well be that at some later date the state may engage in an appropriate weighing of competing needs and allow DWP to divert some waters that will impair some public trust values. But such a weighing has not yet occurred and the DWP diversions should therefore be reduced immediately.

Given the past wet winter, this is a modest request. According to our hydrologists, if next winter's precipitation is average, DWP may have to curtail diversions from a projected 85,000 acre-feet to about 65,000 acre-feet between Oct. 1, 1983 and Aug. 1, 1984. This 20,000 acre-foot reduction would amount to a mere 4 percent of L.A.'s water supply during this 10-month period. It could readily be replaced from alternative sources or through modest water conservation (see *Mono Lake Watch*, p. 3).

"This injunction is necessary to protect the Mono Basin environment pending what could be extended hearings," maintained our lawyers.

Since the suit was filed on May 12, 1979, DWP has done everything in its power to delay the resolution. First it moved to transfer the case from Mono County Superior Court to a "neutral" county. Then DWP unsuccessfully challenged the new venue in Alpine County in the California Court of Appeals. An early trial, tentatively scheduled for March of 1980, was thwarted when DWP filed cross-complaints against every other water user in the Mono Basin. Among the 117 new parties was the United States Government, which had the case transferred to the U.S. District Court in Sacramento. An interminable series of delays then ensued as DWP maneuvered to return the case to state court. In February of 1982, the federal court tentatively decided to try the case, but only after the state court had ruled on two key questions of law: (1) the relationship between the public trust doctrine and the California water rights system, and (2) the need to exhaust administrative remedies by appealing to the State Water Resources Control Board. In November 1981, the Alpine Superior Court ruled against us on these issues, and we appealed to the California Supreme Court. Fifteen months later, on Feb. 17, 1983, the high court reversed the decision, ruling we could "rely on the public trust doctrine in seeking reconsideration of the allocation of the waters of Mono Basin," and that we need not "exhaust administrative remedies" by appealing to the water board. Finally, after four long years, we were on the way to trial. Or so we thought.

Back in federal court, DWP is seeking once again to delay Mono Lake's "day in court." Joined by the state of California, the State Water Resources Control Board and the State Lands Commission, DWP has (1) moved summary for judgment on Audubon's federal nuisance claim,* (2) renewed its previously denied motion to return the case to state court, contending that if the motion for summary judgment is granted, there is no longer a proper basis for federal jurisdiction, (3) moved for abstention by the federal court on the grounds there remain "unsettled" questions of state law, and, in the event the above motions fail, (4) moved to refer the case to the State Water Resources Control Board. We are opposing these motions and pushing for an expeditious trial in federal court.

U.S. District Judge Lawrence Karlton has scheduled a hearing Aug. 24 in Sacramento. A decision is likely by October.

* The "federal nuisance claim" alleges that DWP's diversions have created a nuisance by "impeding the navigability of Mono Lake, reducing the production of brine shrimp which are sold in interstate commerce and eventually threatening to eliminate the brine shrimp entirely from Mono Lake, reducing the desirability of the Mono Basin as an attraction to tourists, some of whom travel interstate, creating air pollution that is in part crossing state lines, destroying the nesting grounds of the California Gull and threatening the habitat of millions of migrating waterfowl." By moving for "summary judgment," DWP is asking the court to dismiss this claim without a full trial.

Warring Parties Must Learn To Cooperate on Mono Water

by ANTONIO ROSSMAN

Tony Rossman is a professor of water law at the University of California's Hastings College of the Law, and has represented Inyo County in its water disputes with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. This article is reprinted from the May 4 Los Angeles Times.

In its recent Mono Lake decision, the California Supreme Court threw out the Gold Rush doctrine that had prevailed in water matters. The court decreed that Los Angeles does not have an incontestable right to unlimited water supplies from Mono Lake just because it was the first to stake a claim to that resource. The court then ordered the state to reexamine past water allocations in light of contemporary evidence that they have been harmful to the environment. The justices said that a balance must be struck between Los Angeles' need for water and the public's right to enjoy Mono Lake's rare recreational opportunities, stark scenery and magnificent ecology.

In challenging the long held assumption that water may be taken by anyone who can use it, the justices redeemed California from a doctrine of the court's own creation. In 1855, just five years after statehood, the court decided that water laws that were then in common usage in other states were unsuited to the arid West; they were rooted in English law, which held that water belonged to those who lived adjacent to it. By its rule of

"first in time, first in right," the court founded Western water law, which led to a system of water rights established not by ownership but according to the ability to take water for productive use. The court thus rewarded the industriousness and energy needed to tame the frontier. Wallace Stegner, the master interpreter of the Western ethic, described the Gold Rush as "universal mass trespass that shortly created laws to legitimize itself."

The original doctrine of "prior appropriation" said nothing about how to protect values of serenity, beauty and wilderness. Prior appropriation found its widest application in the ambitious expropriations of Los Angeles. First, the city took the waters of the Owens River—"raped the Owens Valley"—because it had the wealth to build an aqueduct before valley farmers could dig their irrigation ditches. Then the city looked over the mountains to the Mono Lake basin, and again secured water rights because no competing expropriator got there first. When a few local citizens complained in 1940 to the California Water Board that Mono Lake would be destroyed, the board insisted that it had no choice but to give the water to its only claimant, the Southern California city. But, after four decades, not even the city could ignore the evidence of ecological destruction—not only of the lake but also of the wildlife that depended on it—and the effect on nearby residents, many of whom depended on the lake for their livelihood and were forced to leave as it declined. There finally was a demonstrated need for a new doctrine to replace the old one.

Now the court has established the concept of a public trust, not just for the lake shore but also for the very waters themselves. Recognizing the conflict between this trust and the proprietary water law, the court for the first time decreed that the public trust must prevail over established uses and determine future appropriations. Thus, to the remaining citizens of the Mono Basin and the Owens Valley has come the opportunity to stay and perhaps reverse their destiny.

Just possibly, the state might decide, through the discretion vested by law, to honor the reality vested by nature: before we have taken all there is, we had better give some back.

Not that preservation of the Eastern Sierra is now guaranteed. Many hurdles—burdens of proof, decisions by state bureaucrats, judicial review by other courts—must be overcome in the Mono Lake case to produce an injunction against Los Angeles. Defenders of Mono Lake will be required to demonstrate, not merely allege, how much water is needed to maintain the basin's ecology. But, at the same time, the city's engineers will have to show why Los Angeles' purported need for Mono Lake water can't be met by drawing on the city's entitlement to Colorado River and Sacramento Delta supplies. It probably will take years of wearisome negotiation before an agreement is reached. Eventually, however, both environmentalists and the city should recognize their responsibility to empathize with one another's viewpoint and collaborate voluntarily on a reapportioned sharing of the resource.

That third state of development in Western resource law—collaboration—may seem far off, but the California Supreme Court's decision, requiring Los Angeles to face up to competing values, points in that direction. In contrast, the tribunal's 1855 decree, which favored ambitious water-grubbing, didn't even hint at the public trust values that have finally been recognized in 1983. The court's new water law challenges the warring parties to implement a model of resource allocation that is based not on confrontation but on cooperation.

Air Quality Compromise Won't Clear Air

Opposition from the Mono Lake Committee, the League of Women Voters, Inyo and Mono counties, environmentalists and other advocates of clean air has led to a compromise on S.B. 270—the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's (DWP) blatant attempt to circumvent air quality laws.

In its original form, S.B. 270 would have exempted all water conveyance activities from air quality standards, allowing DWP to evade responsibility for the clouds of alkali dust swept off the dessicated shores of Owens and Mono lakes on windy days.

DWP turned to the legislature to circumvent the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District (APCD), which has demanded permits for DWP's groundwater pumping and surface water diversions. DWP has refused to comply, protesting that the APCD could use the permit process to restrict Los Angeles' water supply.

Faced with growing opposition to S.B. 270, DWP agreed on a compromise: APCD would not require permits after all, but would have authority to require DWP to undertake, at its expense, "reasonable measures, including studies, to mitigate the air quality impacts of its activities." However the measures could not "affect the right of the city to produce, divert, store or convey water." No matter how thick the dust, APCD could not compel DWP to reduce diversions.

While the amended version of S.B. 270 is an improvement, it precludes the only satisfactory solution to the worsening dust problem in the Mono Basin: the stabilization of Mono Lake at an elevation that submerges most of the exposed lakebed. Other mitigation measures are likely to prove ineffective if the lake keeps receding, or to cause unacceptable environmental and esthetic impacts.

Despite the opposition of the Mono Lake Committee, the amended S.B. 270 sailed through the Assembly Natural Resources Committee on an 8-0 vote July 5, and is virtually certain to become law.



Research Bill Fighting for Funds

Assemblyman Norman Waters' (D-Plymouth) Mono Lake Research bill, A.B. 1614, faces an uphill battle for funding.

Supported by both the Mono Lake Committee and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, A.B. 1614 passed the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee 7-0 in April. It would provide \$500,000 for a "scientific study of the effects of water diversions on the Mono Lake ecosystem." Money for the study would be appropriated from the Environmental License Plate fund. Unfortunately, with California's fiscal crisis, competition for this fund is intense.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Contact your assemblyman and state senator, and urge them to give high priority to funding A.B. 1614. Emphasize that Mono Lake's fortuitous rise gives scientists the opportunity of studying a stabilized lake, but only if research begins promptly.

So Calif Fears Exaggerated

Water agencies have a history of fanning fears of shortages, especially when publicly financed water projects are facing a vote. For example, in 1905, William Mulholland exaggerated a drought to promote municipal bond issues to finance the Los Angeles Aqueduct.

Similarly, during the past few years, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) has exaggerated the impact of the Central Arizona Project in order to promote the Peripheral Canal. After 1985, MWD warned, Arizona would be tapping more than half of urban Southern California's Colorado River supply. There was only one way to avoid water famines: construction of the Peripheral Canal to route Northern California water around the Sacramento River Delta to Southern California.

Environmentalists, such as Tom Graff of the Environmental Defense Fund, and even some water agency personnel tried to convince MWD that it could stretch the Colorado River supply through trades with the Imperial Irrigation District, storage of surplus water in groundwater basins, and other innovative measures. Former MWD Board Chairman Earl Blais, however, dismissed such ideas as "wishful thinking" and attempts to divert attention from what he called the only solution to the region's water needs—the Peripheral Canal.

But since the defeat of the canal, MWD officials have begun to change their tune. In a recent study, MWD General Manager Evan L. Griffin sounds cautiously optimistic: "with favorable weather, and with successful implementation of water salvage and banking programs, Metropolitan's future Colorado River water supply can be significantly increased over its present dependable supply."

In an April 28 article in the *Los Angeles Times*, Robert A. Jones summarizes why Southern California's water future is not as bleak as the water agencies were predicting just a few months ago:

- Plans for banking surplus Colorado River water in underground basins and upstream reservoirs for withdrawal in dry years.
- Discovery of large underground aquifers in farm districts along the Colorado that have been filled over decades by leakage from irrigation canals, and could be "mined" to supply Southern California during lean periods.
- Prospects of a trade between the MWD and the huge Imperial Irrigation District south of the Salton Sea.

The latter proposal promises the largest and most dependable additional supply. MWD would pay to upgrade the Imperial's wasteful irrigation system by lining canals with concrete and building more efficient control gates. In return, MWD would receive a credit for the water saved. Suggested by the Department of Water Resources two years ago, this common-sense conservation measure could yield about 430,000 acre-feet of additional water per year.

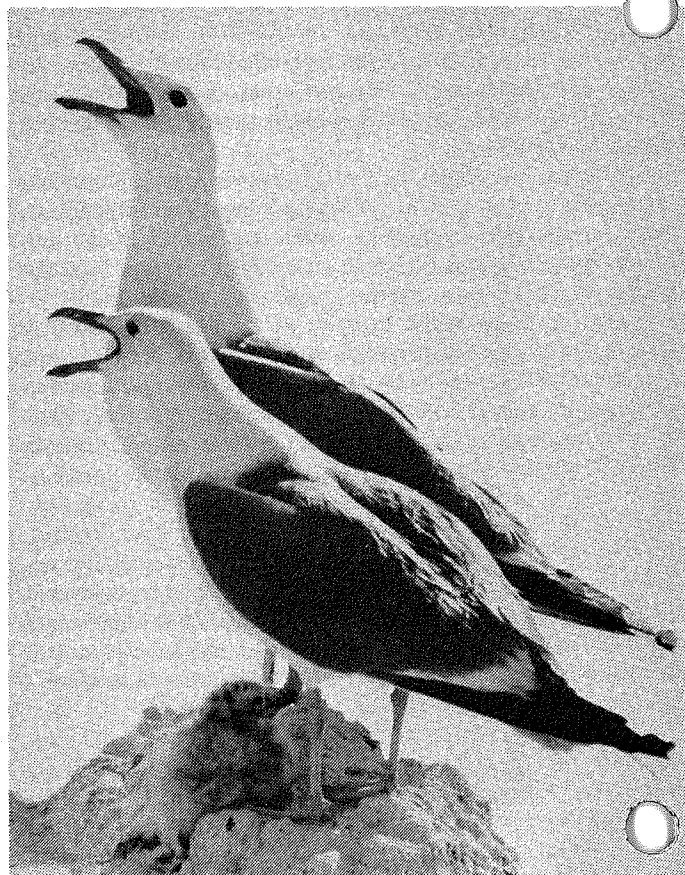
Moreover all these proposals appear to offer water at far cheaper rates than could be obtained by building the Peripheral Canal and expanding the State Water Project.

The Central Arizona Project is facing delays, and Arizona will not be tapping its full Colorado River entitlement anytime soon. Hence MWD has plenty of time to implement the above measures and develop effective conservation and reclamation programs.

In sum, Southern California need not slake its thirst by destroying Mono Lake . . . if only it uses existing supplies efficiently and wisely.

Life Among the Gulls

by DEAN CUTTER



Two cars were parked in the sagebrush, so I pulled off, too. I had rightly guessed this was the point of departure. I was greeted by wildlife photographer Larry Ford, biologist Emily Strauss and an Australian photographer named Chris and his wife Charlotte.

We picked our way past puddles, meandered across mud flats and emerged two miles away at Mono's receding shoreline. A motorized Zodiac raft came to waft us away for an island adventure among the lake's gull colonies.

We had come to spend a few days assisting the gull researchers. In the process we learned a great deal about gull and biologist behavior.

Heading the Mono Lake gull study is Point Reyes Bird Observatory biologist David Shuford. A tall, lanky, blond-haired fellow, he approaches his research with the serious aplomb required to obtain "good data." Yet, clip board and rapidograph in hand, Dave is ready to laugh at the slightest glint of a joke.

Within minutes of our arrival, Dave plunked biologist Bob Hogan, Larry and me onto Steamboat Islet. Our job was to count every gull nest, egg and chick on this one-acre jumble of rocks.

Gulls wheeled and screamed overhead, upset by this human invasion. We fanned out across the islet, marking a rock near each nest with a dab of spray paint to avoid recounts. Repeatedly the gulls swooped at our heads. One bird knocked my hat off 10 times! By moving quickly we minimized our intrusion. We completed the census in 1½ hours, counting about 2,000 nests averaging two eggs each.

After the morning on Steamboat, Dave ferried us to Krakatoa Island, where we stayed for the next few days. "Krak" is a fake volcano composed of paper mache, chicken wire and wood. Constructed some 25 years ago for the movie *Fair Winds to Java*, this

unlikely structure is perched atop one of the numerous rocky islets east of Negit Island.

A spacious deck in Krakatoa's interior serves as home for me, Emily and Bob. Decades of wind, rain and frost have wrenched large hunks of paper mache from the walls. Lavishly ventilated, it offers scant protection from snow, rain and wind.

After several cheese sandwiches, cookies and gulps of coffee, I stuffed my daypack with warm clothes and was off again with Dave in the Zodiac. This time we headed for Little Tahiti, a smaller movie set volcano used by the gull researchers as an observation blind. Presently we tied our inflatable boat to its steep, rocky shore. Adorned with binoculars, packs and clipboards, we ascended the precipitous rock slides to the tiny blind.

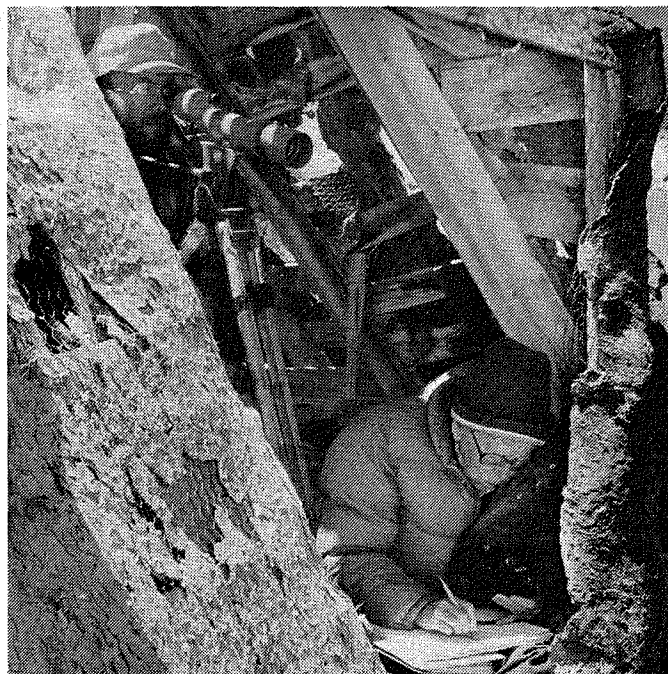
Though there are more than 2,000 nests on Little Tahiti, we could see only 80 from the blind. Dave had been monitoring these nests for several weeks. Every day, Dave explained, each nest must be checked for eggs and young.

I quickly realized that "nest checking" requires supreme patience. Only when the adult bird rises off the nest are the eggs or young revealed to the observer. So we huddled in the blind and peered through the windows for hours, waiting for birds to stand up.

Gulls never leave their nests unattended for a very good reason—other gulls. If given a chance, an adult will quickly cannibalize an egg or chick from a neighbor. We frequently saw aerial dogfights over stolen eggs, and, less often, two little feet protruding from a gull's maw.

While watching the nests, the dynamic, ceaseless activity reminded me of the words of William Leon Dawson, written here in 1919: "There was life at an intense node—a thousand irate fathers beating the air with futile wing, and venting their rage in incomprehensible cackles and kawks, while a thousand anxious mothers hovered or settled by turns, their hearts wrung by the importunities of a thousand chicks . . ." Indeed I was lulled by the constant, chaotic babble and hubbub, and missed a number of chances to observe nests.

Suddenly I saw thousands of gulls explode off the island, deafening the ear with calls of alarm. Somewhere above soared a golden eagle. According to Dave, the eagle was a regular visitor and had dined on a number of chicks.



Larry Ford

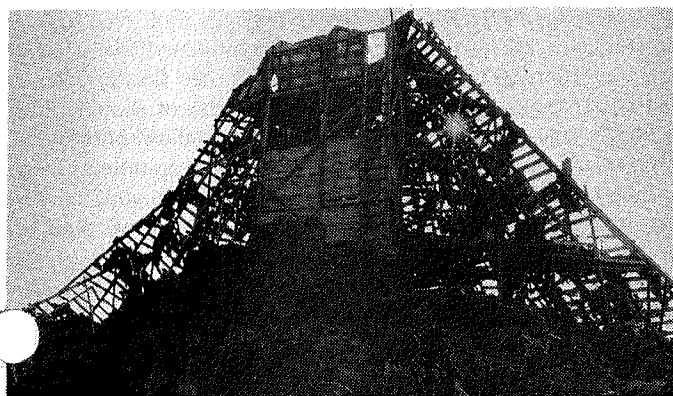
Using one of Mono's Hollywood volcanoes as an observation blind, biologists monitor the progress of gull nests.

That night, we returned to the colonies to band chicks. We had to be exceedingly cautious, lest we step on the baby gulls, which looked like fat fluffballs. To minimize disturbance, we worked at night. Even so, the gulls swooped by our heads, complaining bitterly. Dave hopes to band about 1,000 chicks this summer.

The next day, my nest watching was cut short when high winds swept the lake into a maelstrom of whitecapped waves. By the time Dave, Emily and I reached the Zodiac, it was swamped, and three-foot waves were shoving it against Little Tahiti's jagged rocks. Soaked with alkali spray, we emptied the boat and hove-to into the lake.

As usual we arrived at Krakatoa tired, hungry and caked with alkali. We pulled the boat ashore and lashed it firmly to several large boulders, as Mono Lake's unpredictable winds frequently exceed 50 mph.

A thousand irate fathers beating the air with futile wing, and venting their rage in incomprehensible cackles and kawks, while a thousand anxious mothers hovered or settled by turns, their hearts wrung by the importunities of a thousand chicks...



Larry Ford

Krakatoa's Hollywood "volcano," built for the movie Fair Winds to Java in 1952, is now a drafty home for gull biologists.

Cups of coffee and fine company made for a memorable afternoon. Larry spun tales of diving into the open ocean, Chris and Charlotte spoke of Australia, and Bob told of his work with the Peace Corps in Latin America. Emily and Dave, of course, had plenty to say about gulls!

We were sharing Krakatoa with violet-green swallows, who, I knew, would go to great lengths to catch a feather for their nests. So I sent a few feathers into the churning air. Conversation was replaced by "oohs" and "ahs" and shouts of encouragement as the little sky pilots jockeyed through the wind vying for the flying feathers.

That evening I watched moon, clouds and stars paint a watercolor on Mono Lake's unruffled surface. I thought of the millions of gulls which have crossed the Sierra over thousands of years and fell asleep to the cries of their descendants.

Mono Basin Naturalist: Birds, Gnats and Wildflowers

by MEREDITH HELLAND FORD

For the past year, Mary Ford, photographer husband Larry and their two small children have lived like pioneers in a small, primitive cabin on Mono Lake's north shore. They are preparing a photographic natural history of the Mono Basin, and have donated their time to produce our 1984 Mono Lake Calendar (see p. 15).

The desert smells of sagebrush again. Fence lizards are doing "push-ups" on our sunny porch. Flies buzz at the screen door. Classic signs of summer.

But only yesterday, it seems, winter owned our cabin and the Mono Basin. Snow flew as late as the week after Mother's Day, not staying long, but making us certain that spring had forgotten us. As it turned out, spring never arrived! In late May, longjohns gave way to T-shirts as winter reluctantly yielded to 80° summery days.

"Mom, the wrens are screaming!" It was early May, and Eric, our two-year-old son, was listening to 20 or more house wrens establishing territories in the nest boxes around our cabin. Now, two months later, fat little wren babies twitter all day for food. Each morning a grinning Eric greets their busy parents with a loud "HOUSE WREN!!!," but these normally shy birds are hardly ruffled. Beaks stuffed with bugs, they watch him carefully for a moment before returning to their ever-hungry young.

Many other birds are nesting around our place as well. A flicker family has taken over a hole in Adele's cabin. Violet-green swallows have ensconced themselves in the broken siding in Doug's cabin. Poor-wills must be nesting in the sagebrush, for at night we hear them calling—a peaceful, summery sound. They squat in our dirt road, fluttering up only when our car is almost upon them.

A few weeks ago, in the wet meadow, a mother common snipe flushed off her eggs in the same way. Larry's big boot came within inches of her hidden nest before she flapped off, crying and feigning a broken wing. As we peered at the four brown-speckled eggs, she circled above still complaining and scolding. Since April, at dawn and dusk, we have heard male snipe circling overhead, not complaining, but performing a mating ritual called "winnowing." As they plummet earthwards from heights up to 500 feet, their vibrating tail feathers produce an ascending series of hollow tremolo notes. "Hear the snipes, Dad? They're winnowing!" Even Eric knows and loves this haunting sound.

We sit on the porch soaking up the warm twilight together, listening to the snipes and the roar of Mill Creek loud with snowmelt almost a mile away. It reminds us of the family of water ouzels nesting by an even louder stream in Lee Vining Canyon. These amazing gray birds dive into the creek for insects, not the



Larry Ford

A house wren sings a welcome to spring! Or is it summer?

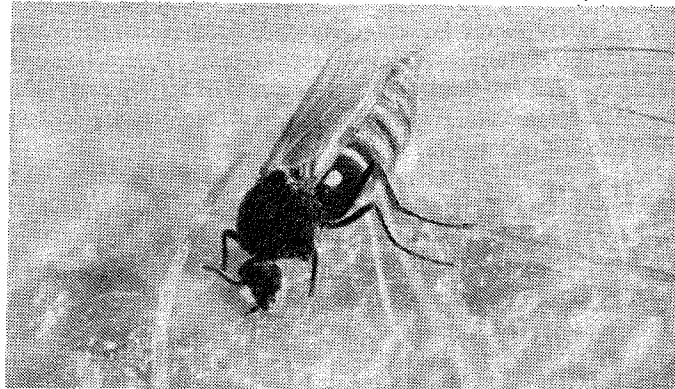
calm, sidewater eddies, but the raging white-water torrents which should, by all rights, pound them lifeless against the rocks. But they emerge perky and energetic due, Larry explains, to stiff up-turned tails which act like spoilers on race cars: water pushing down on their tails gives them underwater traction. Over and over, every thirty seconds or so, we watched one ouzel and then the other carry beakfuls of wiggling insects through the spray of a roaring waterfall (another suicide attempt?) to a bulky, mud-covered nest on a mist-soaked ledge. Deep within the dark, hole-like entrance, two pink and yellow mouths burst open for another meal.

Without summer's abundance of insects, nesting birds would not be able to feed their young. But among the insects is one we could do without: the "no-see-em." These tiny biting gnats, which hatch in the moisture beneath the sagebrush, plagued us during May and June. Our five-month-old baby, Jessica, seemed especially succulent to the female gnats which, like female mosquitos, do all the blood collecting. This blood provides the protein they need to produce eggs. In defense, we doused ourselves with bath oil, but still they measled us with tiny red, itchy bites. Fortunately, by July, their hatching sites began to dry out and no-see-ems began to disappear.

But the same wet conditions that hatched the gnats also nurtured a wealth of wild flowers. Since May, the Mono Basin has been a changing rainbow of color: fragrant pink blossoms of desert peach and wild rose, dwarf pink monkeyflowers, white evening primroses that turn a lovely pink as their flowers begin to fade, purple-blue lupines and locoweeds, fields of shoulder-high wild iris, red paintbrush and columbines, yellow bitterbrush, wallflowers, sulphur flowers and mule ears, and countless others.

Flowers will be blooming in the moist Sierran canyons all summer long. Last week, on a trek into Lundy Canyon, we met rein orchids, monkhoods, wild lilac, stickseeds, gillias, gentians and more. And more! Just as one's eyes become used to the dark, our eyes got used to wild flowering, and saw flowers where none we seen before. All 900-plus varieties of Mono Basin flowers seem spread before us as we wandered down the canyon and across the sagebrush to the shores of the lake.

What abundance! Our winter of all winters has brought us a summer of all summers!



A female gnat dines on blood from Larry Ford's arm. Anything for a photograph!

MLC News and Activities

Information Center Busy at Last

June was quiet at our Mono Lake Information Center in Lee Vining. Tioga Pass was still blocked by snow and visitors weren't flocking our way in their usual numbers. But with streams full of water and the lake rising every day, we weren't complaining either!

The opening of Tioga on June 30, the latest date ever, released a flood of tourists, and it's been busy ever since. With the help of our hardworking summer interns, Dean Cutter, Emily Harris, Mary Kozak and Katie Quinlan, we are keeping the center open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. every day of the week. We are also conducting free field trips daily.

Staff Hellos and Good-byes

With the help of the Environmental Intern Program and a grant from the Columbia Foundation, we have been able to add two outstanding new people to our staff. Steve Osgood, a June graduate from Stanford University's human biology program and formerly with the League of Conservation Voters, joins our Los Angeles office as Southern California Coordinator. David Wimfheimer, formerly with the National Park Service and Pt. Reyes National Seashore, joins our Bay Area crew as Northern California Coordinator. Steve and David will be directing our grassroots educational efforts, presenting programs, organizing special events and generally spreading the word about Mono Lake's plight.

Our business manager, Kathy Kaz, is leaving to pursue her col-
education. Her services will be missed.

We'll also miss Sam James, a Lee Vining intern who was especially helpful in tracking ongoing research, and Michael Jimenez, a legislative intern whose hard work and dedication played a key role in our lobbying and education efforts in Sacramento.

MLC Membership Passes 5,000

This spring, we sent membership appeals to about 50,000 outdoor-minded Californians. As a result, we recruited our 5,000th member. Increasing our membership is crucial, for it gives us the political clout we need to save Mono Lake.

Inevitably our mailings reach a few people who are already MLC members. The cost of purging lists of MLC'ers is prohibitively high. We trust you'll understand, and pass the information on to a friend.



On Saturday, Sept. 3, Father Christopher Kelley will lead our annual bucket brigade from the Lee Vining diversion dam down to Mono Lake's shores. The walk will be followed by our annual meeting and picnic. Join us in celebration of Mono's rising fortunes!



Our stalwart Lee Vining crew! Back row, left to right: Katie Quinlan, Mary Kozak, Dean Cutter, Steve Catton and Debby Jewett. Front row: David Gaines, Vireo, Sally Judy Gaines and Emily Harris.

1983 Bucket Walk Annual Meeting and Picnic

Join Mono Lake's friends on Saturday, Sept. 3, for our fourth bucket walk, annual meeting and picnic. We will each dip a small container into Lee Vining Creek and deliver the water to the lake, symbolizing our commitment to its preservation.

On the same day the L.A. to Mono Lake Bike-a-thoners will be arriving with water scooped from the DWP's reflecting pool in downtown Los Angeles. Let's welcome them with hundreds of people!

MEET at 10 a.m. at the Old Marina (parking area just east of U.S. 395 one mile north of Lee Vining). We will provide shuttles to the beginning of the walk.

BRING snacks, signs with appropriate slogans and a small container for carrying water.

MEETING AND PICNIC: Gather at the Mono Lake County Park at 4 p.m. for our annual meeting (five miles north of Lee Vining). The picnic will follow around 6 p.m. Bring your own food and libation. See you there!

Bay Area Fund Raisers Successful

Two recent fund raisers organized by one of Mono's most dedicated friends raised about \$2,500 for the lake's survival. Over 100 art-loving monophiles attended a docent-led tour of the Shanghai Museum exhibit at San Francisco's Asian Art Museum on June 18. Sixty-three people enjoyed a Fourth of July cruise, dinner and fireworks on San Francisco Bay. Everyone had a wonderful time, thanks to gorgeous weather and the superb organizational skills of Mildred Bennett. Mildred is planning more trips and cruises for the months ahead, to be announced in future newsletters. Thank you, Mildred!

Photographic Workshop October 10-15

This fall a five-day photographic workshop will be conducted in the Mono Basin by three outstanding photographers and Mono Lake supporters: William Neill, Jeff Nixon and Lewis Kemper. The fee for the workshop, which will cover a variety of approaches to landscape and nature photography, is \$200. For further information or to enroll, please contact: SIERRA PHOTOGRAPHIC CENTER, BOX 33, EL PORTAL, CA 95318, phone (209) 379-2828.

Accolades

Our guardian angel of electrical circuitry, Todd Berens, returned this summer. Todd has built and installed many new fixtures which are safe, convenient and beautiful. Building materials and fixtures were donated by Bill Short's Construction Framing of Anaheim and Jeff Berens of Lighting Concepts of Glendale.

Several generous spirits donated items to beautify the information center. Debbie Wilson sent a handmade wall hanging of South Tufa. Jean Dale gave us a gull mobile that dances above the cash register. Kurt Kassahn donated several more stunning black-and-white photographs.

A special thanks to all the MLC'ers who sent us used books and recycled bags; more are always welcome!

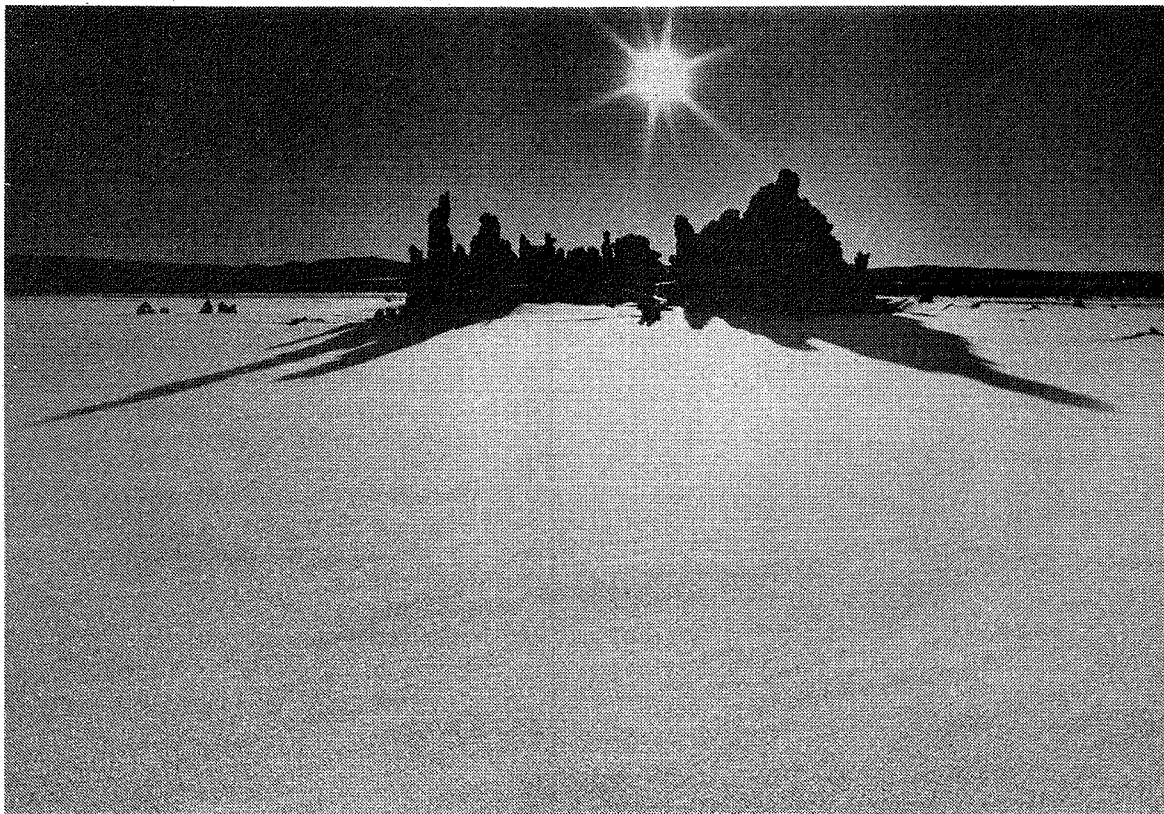
In addition to the books, we have been given the following items to sell and raise funds for the lake: handstitched ornamental birds by longtime supporter Cherry Franklin, daypacks by Buttermilk Mountain Works of Bishop, and solar graphic kits by Reed Bennett. For the third year, Wilderness Press is donating the profits on all of its books that we sell in the center.

We are also grateful to Joan Dowdell and Myrtle Carson, former Mono Basin residents, for the donation of valuable historical photographs.



Memorial Contributions

We gratefully acknowledge a contribution from Kate Nigh in memory of James Hayes and Betty Knight-Smith, and a contribution from Mr. and Mrs. Donald M. Kelly in memory of James Mize.



Larry Ford

Tufa formations between sun and sand, from our 1984 Mono Lake Calendar (see p. 15).

Grand Auction a Grand Success

Thanks to the volunteer energy of several dozen monophiles and the generosity of donors and bidders, the Mono Lake Grand Auction raised over \$27,000 for Mono Lake.

And grand it was! The 250 people who jammed the Fort Mason Conference Center in San Francisco on June 1 enjoyed gourmet hors d'oeuvres provided at cost by Narsai's restaurant, and sipped wines donated by Don Collin of Maximillian Vineyards. The conference center was stunningly decorated with displays of auction items, Gulliver Gulls (donated by R. Dakin and Co.) and other Mono Lake motifs. Each of the tables was elegantly set with white linen, African violet centerpieces, seagull napkins (donated by Monogram of California) and bottles of red and white wine. Guests were served by volunteer, tuxedo-clad "bartenders" (tuxedos courtesy of Grodin's Formal Wear), and serenaded by harpist extraordinaire, Dianne de Laet. Among the luminaries in the crowd were San Francisco Supervisor Carol Ruth Silver, former California Resources Secretary Huey Johnson, author Wallace Stegner, political cartoonist Ken Alexander and "cable car lady" Friedel Klussman. Needless to say, everyone was in buoyant spirits!

There are always one or two people who make these events a success. Mono Lake, its friends, birds and brine shrimp owe an immense debt of gratitude to Grace and Rick de Laet, whose inspiration, energy and plain hard work made the auction the best fund raiser we have ever held!



Auction Thank Yous

A special thank you to Mrs. Ann Getty for her generous contribution to help defray auction costs.

Tufa cheers to the following monophiles for volunteering their time to make the auction a success: Steve Barber, Mary and John Boyle, Chris Carlson, Judy Cohen, Charlotte Cooper, Steve de Laet, Marta Fry, Karen Greer, Michael Guilkey, Sally Guilkey, Jimmie Hogland, Michael Hoke, Wick Kenney, Elizabeth Leaf, Paul Lyons, Sally Miller, Michael Moore, Carol Naber, Connie Parrish, Ali Pearson, David Phillips, Mark Ross, Lora Shank, Katy Slichter, Jeff Trotter, Nancy Wiltsek, George Wise, Kevin Wold, Lois Wood and Delphine Zeuli.

Our deepest appreciation to the following individuals and businesses for donating auction items:

Ansel Adams
Dick Anderton
Bay Meadows Race Track
Denis Belfortie
Best Western Lakeview Motel (Lee Vining)
Roy and Kathy Bissember (St. Helena)
The Blue Goose (Sonoma)
Annie Bohrisch
John and Mary Boyle
David Brower
Ginny Burdick
Dallas Burger
Sara Burnaby
California Culinary Academy
Robert Cameron
Centrella Hotel (Pacific Grove)
Saul Chaikin
Bob Christensen
Jack and Kay Cutter
Robert Dawson
Dianne de Laet
Rick and Grace de Laet
Delta Line Cruises
The Doubletree Inn (Monterey)
Ernie's Restaurant
Fairmont Hotel
Folk Art International
Fournou's Ovens
Friends of the River
Marta Fry
Edith and Mort Gaines
Duane Garrett
Gateway Motel (Lee Vining)

Golden Gate Holiday Inn
The General Store Restaurant (Monterey)
Geo Expeditions
Harold Gilliam
Ed Grosswiler
The Highlands Inn (Monterey)
Hughes and Hughes Jewelry
Stephen Johnson
Tom Kay Antiques
Peter Kelling
Kellogg's Shell (Lee Vining)
Mike Kerry
Ted Kipping
Friedel Klussmann
La Mere Duquesne (San Francisco)
Andrea Mead Lawrence
Le Camembert (Mill Valley)
Lindemann's Jewelry Co.
John Linford
Martin Litton
Neil Malloch
Mammoth Lakes Safeway
Marmot Mountain Works Ltd.
Henry Maschal
Maurice et Charles Bistrot (San Rafael)
Tim McGarvey
Ted McKeon
Suzanne Luther Methvin
The Mono Inn (Mono Lake)
Erica Moore
Dottie and Thomas Morgan
Napa Valley Balloon Co.

Napa Valley Heritage Tours
The Nature Company
William A. Newsom
Nicely's Restaurant (Lee Vining)
The North Face
Marion Palmer
Ali Pearson
The Perry House (Monterey)
Ellen Conrad Peters
Playmate International
Demetrius Pohl
Jack Post
Jay Quetnick
Richardson Bay Audubon Center
Salishan Lodge (Gleneden Beach, Oregon)
The Sardine Factory (Monterey)
Zelda Schultz
The Sierra Club
Silverado Country Club (Napa Valley)
Genny Smith
The Spanish Villa (St. Helena)
Wallace Stegner
Scott Stoffer
John Taft
Michael Thomas
Tioga Pass Resort
Y.A. Tittle
Torres Wines
U.S. Air
Walt Wilson
Mrs. Betty Wood
Tom Wrubel
Yosemite Park and Curry Company

Auction Items Available at Bargain Prices!

In the excitement of our Grand Auction, a few outstanding items were passed over or never paid for. We are inviting MLC members to bid on these great values to help us raise funds to save Mono Lake!

To make a bid or to obtain more information about the auction items, please call Martin O'Malley in San Francisco at (415) 956-7532, or send your bid to: MONO LAKE GRAND AUCTION, 1045 Sansome St., Room 219, San Francisco, CA 94111 (please include your address and phone number). All bids must be received by Oct. 31.

MONO LAKE OVERNIGHT

A private, overnight plane trip for up to three people to Mono Lake. Fly aboard a new Cessna 210, tour the lake, enjoy a gourmet dinner at The Mono Inn, then drive to a beautiful mountain lodge to spend the night. The owner will cook breakfast over his wood stove, then lead you on a walk through the aspens to see the deer. Visit the Mono Lake Information Center, enjoy an afternoon hike, then fly off into the sunset and home.

Minimum Bid: \$350

PACIFIC GROVE VACATION

Two nights for two (any Sunday through Thursday) at the Centrella Hotel, a newly refurbished luxury "bed and breakfast inn" (circa 1889) that has won the Pacific Grove Heritage Award. And more! Enjoy California cooking and wines amidst a garden setting at Monterey's resplendent Victorian mansion, The Perry House—divine food!

Minimum Bid: \$200

LUNCH WITH FRIEDEL KLUSSMANN

San Francisco's "Cable Car Lady" will hold a gourmet luncheon for two on the terrace of her 50-year-old San Francisco home on Telegraph Hill. She will talk about the cable cars and "San Francisco Beautiful," the organization she founded, followed by a tour of Telegraph Hill by San Francisco historian Neil Malloch.

Minimum Bid: \$200

BIRDWATCHER'S DREAM

David Gaines, Chairman of the Mono Lake Committee and birdwatcher extraordinaire, will lead up to six people on a full day of birdwatching in Yosemite National Park, at Mono Lake, or anywhere in the Eastern Sierra.

Minimum Bid: \$100

SALISHAN LODGE ON OREGON COAST

Three days for two at this magnificent oceanfront resort on the rugged Oregon Coast. Enjoy tennis, golf, swimming, hiking and even deep sea fishing.

Minimum Bid: \$450

DAY AT MONO LAKE

A private plane trip for four, either Saturday or Sunday, for a full day's outing at Mono Lake. Travel in a new Twin Cessna 320E Executive Skynight. Be greeted at Lee Vining Airport by David Gaines, who will conduct a tour of the lake, followed by a picnic barbecue in the park with the Mono Lake Committee.

Minimum Bid: \$250

SAILING ON SAN FRANCISCO BAY

Walt Wilson's 30-foot Newport sloop is available to the bidder for a day's sail on the Bay for one or two couples. With an expert sailor and you can learn a lot. Lunch is included.

Minimum Bid: \$100

HOUSEBOAT VACATION ON LAKE SHASTA

Playmate International has provided three days for two on a fully equipped houseboat for you to explore Shasta's wilderness shores. With two wet years, the lake is at its best.

Minimum Bid: \$250

WEEK AT MAMMOTH LAKES

A full week for up to six people in a luxurious 3-bedroom condominium set among the pines with breathtaking views of 13,000-foot peaks. Skiers' or hikers' paradise! Included is a luncheon with Andrea Mead Lawrence, first American to win Olympic gold medals for skiing, and her biographer, Sara Burnaby.

Minimum Bid: \$400

MONO LAKE PORTFOLIO

Five color and five black-and-white 11" by 14" prints of Mono Basin landscapes by two of the region's most sensitive photographic interpreters, Bob Dawson and Stephen Johnson. Steve is the curator of the *At Mono Lake* exhibition.

Minimum Bid: \$700

ROSE CANTON CHINA

A rare opportunity to bid on a Chinese porcelain dinnerware set for eight, Rose Canton design. Circa 1900-1920.

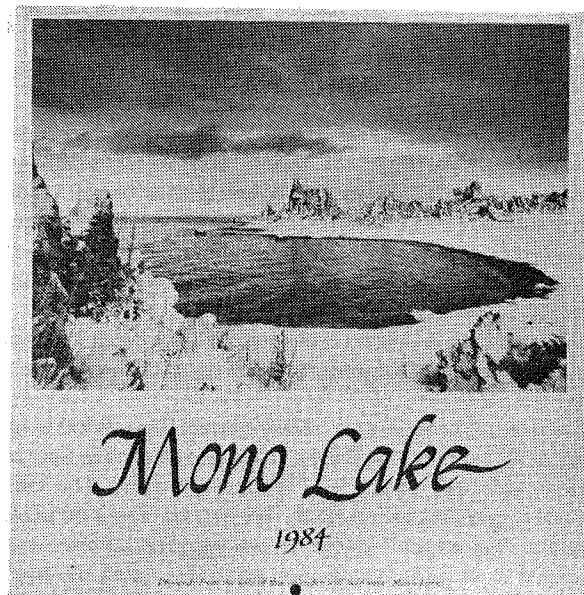
Minimum Bid: \$1500

Mono Lake Pins



High quality metal pins, one-inch diameter, engraved with an evocative nocturnal scene in blues, silver and white. All proceeds benefit the lake!
\$1.95

1984 Mono Lake Calendar



Features some of the finest Mono Lake landscape and wildlife photography we've seen. Wonderful black-and-white photographs of bobcat, great horned owl, shorebirds, swans, tufa and more. 11 by 11 inches, with hole for easy hanging. By Larry Ford and the Mono Lake Committee. \$4.95, or 5 for \$21.95

New Books on the Sierra Nevada and Eastern Sierran History

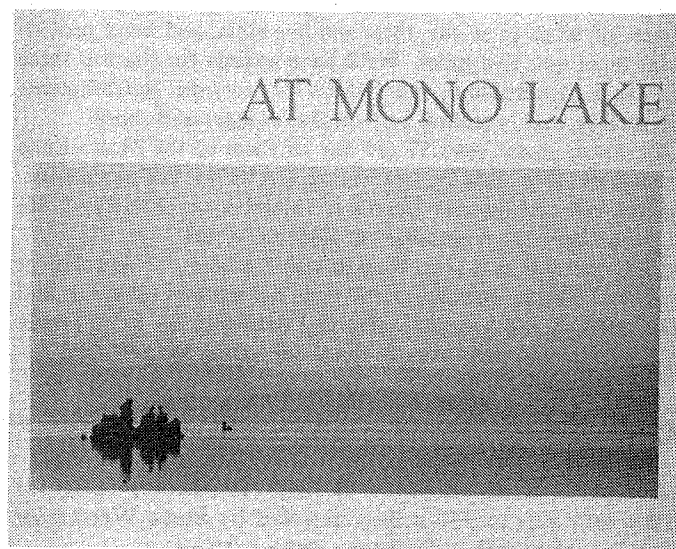
Among the newly published books now in stock at our Mono Lake Information Center are two titles of special interest: *A Treasury of the Sierra Nevada* (Wilderness Press, 362 pp. paper, \$9.95) and *Doctor Nellie* (Genny Smith Books, 384 pp., \$9.95).

A Treasury of the Sierra Nevada is a collection of writings from the first century-and-a-half of recorded Sierran history, with selections by explorers, immigrants, poets, travelers, scientists, conservationists, innkeepers and mountain climbers. Edited by Leonard Reid, this collection is the first and only such anthology. Among the 71 selections are pieces by Mark Twain, Jack London, Robert Louis Stevenson, David Brower, John Muir, Kenneth Rexroth, Gary Snyder and many others. Included is Huey D. Johnson's eloquent congressional testimony, "Mono Lake Doesn't Need To Die."

Doctor Nellie is the classic autobiography of Dr. Helen Macknight Doyle, who practiced medicine in Bishop from 1895 to 1917. One of California's first women physicians, she entered the medical profession with much grit and little fuss at a time when women were not at all welcome. Her autobiography vividly conveys the pioneer days of the Owens Valley and the Eastern Sierra. Moreover it is an exciting story of tragedy and adventure that has been called "one of the most outstanding contributions to western literature" and "one of the finest and most interesting autobiographies written by an American woman." Genny Smith Books has produced a quality edition of a wonderful book that has been out of print for 50 years.

A Treasury of the Sierra Nevada and *Doctor Nellie* are both available from the Mono Lake Committee for \$9.95 each (plus \$2.50 postage and handling; California residents please add 6 percent sales tax).

At Mono Lake Catalogue



Highest quality reproductions of 16 color and 49 black-and-white photographs from the *At Mono Lake* exhibition, including work by Ansel Adams, Brett Weston, Phillip Hyde and many other artists. Edited by Stephen Johnson and published by Friends of the Earth Foundation with the financial assistance of the Mortimer Fleishhacker Foundation and Zellerbach Family Fund. Paperback; 8½ by 10½ inches. A stunning production! \$12.95

To order, please send total amount plus \$2.50 for postage and handling (California residents please add 6% sales tax) to: *Mono Lake Committee, P.O. Box 29, Lee Vining, CA 93541.*

FUN(D)RAISERS

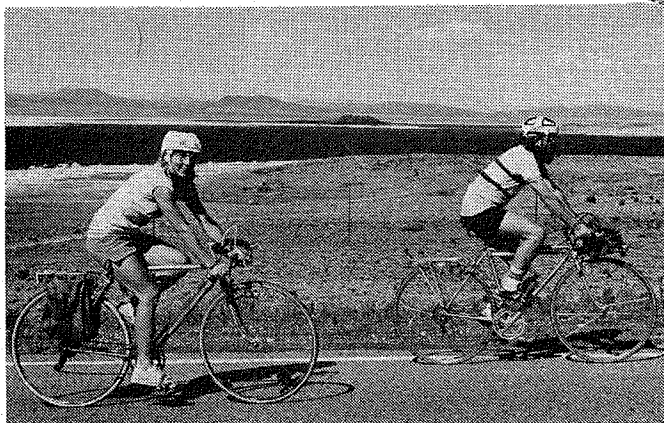
4th L.A. to Mono Bike-a-Thon

On Aug. 29, a band of dedicated cyclists will depart from the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's downtown skyscraper, small vials of water strapped to their bicycles, and the fourth annual L.A. to Mono Lake Bike-a-Thon will be underway. Six days later, on Sept. 3, the wheeled monophiles will rush down to Mono's shore, joining the bucket walkers in our annual celebration of the lake's right to life.

You can join us, either by cycling along or in spirit by pledging your support to MLC volunteer Steve Wenker or the rider of your choice.

If you would like to join us, please contact Steve Wenker in Los Angeles at (213) 457-4938, David Takemoto-Weerts in Sacramento at (916) 448-1045 or any MLC office right away. The 350-mile ride is not as grueling as it sounds. We average about 60 miles per day, and a "sag wagon" carries all our supplies. Cyclists are also encouraged to join the bike-a-thon anywhere along the route.

The Mono Lake Bike-a-thoners deserve your support. Please pledge whatever you can, and ask your friends to do the same. Every cent will further the fight to save Mono Lake.



1983 Bird-a-Thon

For the fourth year MLC is joining with the Point Reyes Bird Observatory (PRBO) in a joint fund-raising event—the 1983 Bird-a-Thon. Spend an exciting day birdwatching while helping raise funds for two good causes. PRBO is a nonprofit research group that has been studying Mono's birds since 1977, including doing this summer's crucial gull research.

The rules are simple. You ask friends to pledge a nickel, dime, dollar or whatever for every species you tally on any day prior to Oct. 15. For example, if you see 50 species and a sponsor pledged 50 cents per species, you have raised \$25!

Or, if you don't wish to count, you may sponsor our bird-brained MLC Chairman, David Gaines, who will probably tally about 140 species.

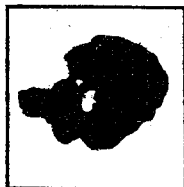
All counters receive a free Mono Lake or PRBO T-shirt. If you want to count, please contact Bob Stewart at the Point Reyes Bird Observatory, Box 321 Bolinas, CA 94924, phone (415) 868-1221, or David Gaines at the Mono Lake Committee, P.O. Box 29, Lee Vining, CA 93541, phone (619) 647-6386.



Early October is a great time to visit the lake . . . and a great time for running. The aspens will be in full autumn splendor, and conditions should be clear, crisp and beautiful. So bring family and friends, and help us raise funds for saving Mono Lake!

I pledge \$ _____/mile to help save Mono Lake for every mile (up to 350 miles) bicycled by Steve Wenker or proxy on the 1983 L.A.-Mono Bike-a-Thon.

I pledge \$ _____/species to help save Mono Lake for every species tallied by David Gaines on the 1983 Bird-a-Thon.



**The
Mono Lake
Committee**

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