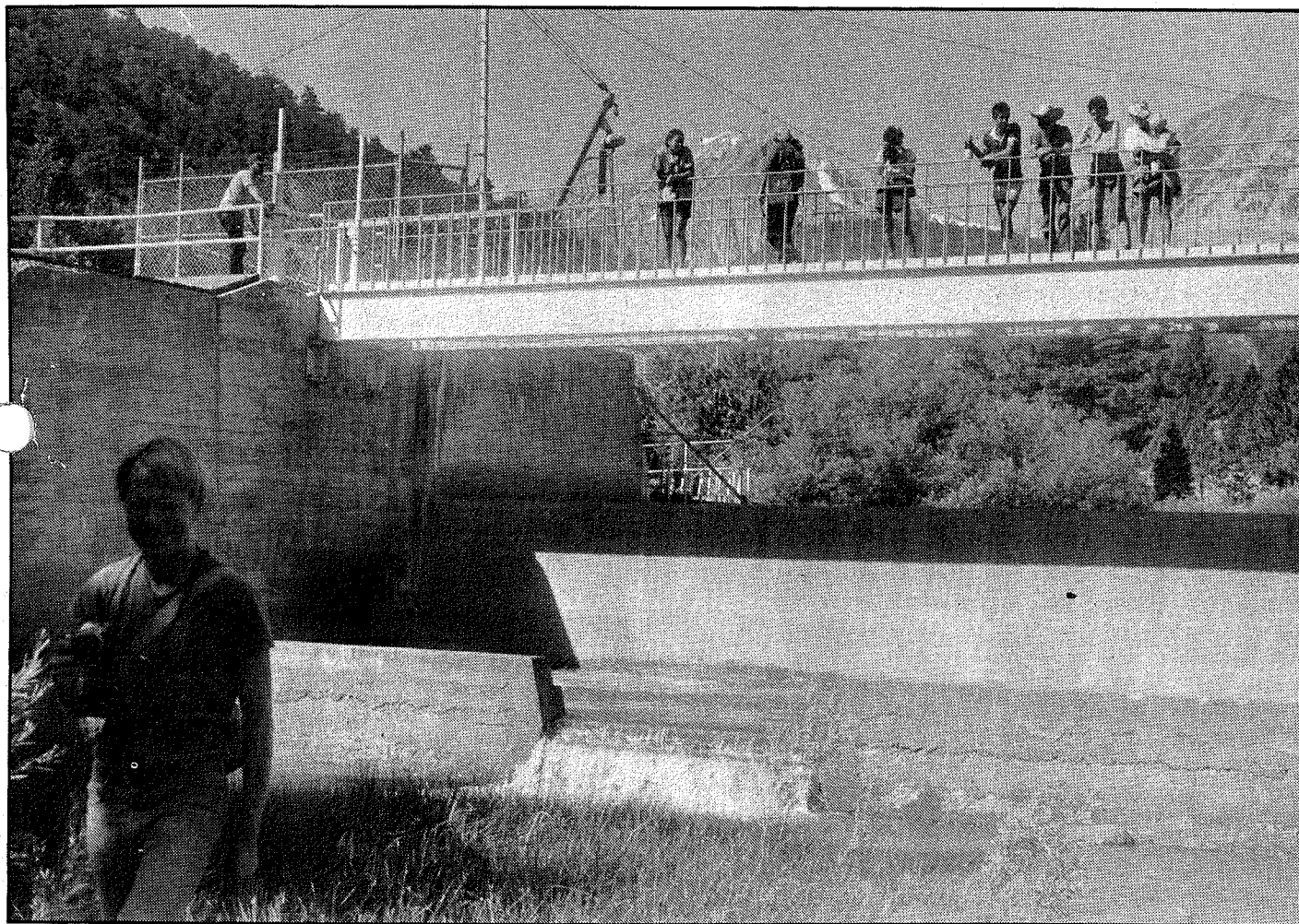


Autumn 1986

Vol. 9, No. 2

# MONO <sup>the</sup> LAKE

NEWS LETTER



Court Orders DWP to Rewater Lee Vining Creek  
Bradley, L.A. Times Support Saving Lake, If . . .  
DWP Resumes Diversions

*Living water—who knows how much of life  
these mountain streams carry!*

...John Muir



*After running 100 miles in three days from the Los Angeles Aqueduct intake, Tony Rossmann joins jubilant bike-a-thoners and bucket walkers at Mono Lake.*

## THE MONO LAKE COMMITTEE

is a non-profit citizens' group dedicated to saving Mono Lake from the excessive diversion of water from its tributary streams. We seek a compromise that will meet the real water needs of Los Angeles and leave our children a living, healthy and beautiful lake.

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This newsletter is partially funded by a grant from the Mono Lake Foundation.

**ON THE COVER:** *Monophiles rejoice as a Los Angeles Department of Water and Power employee (upper left) releases water down a dry Lee Vining Creek into Mono Lake. The day before, on Aug. 12, a court had granted the dying stream a reprieve. It was a magical moment. The water danced down the streambed, carrying us smiling and laughing with it. We felt as if we, too, had been released from imprisonment and allowed to flow freely.*

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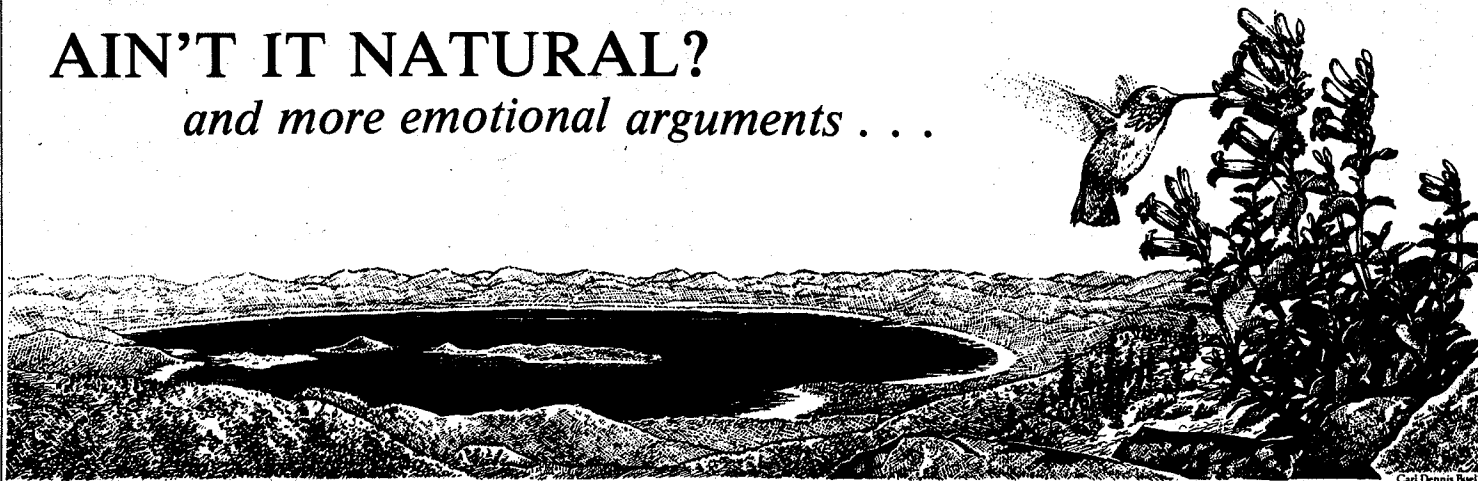
## HEY, CHRISTMAS SHOPPERS!

Check out our 1987 Mono Lake Catalog at the back of this issue for great gift ideas! Seriously, the new Mono Lake calendar is the best ever, and proceeds go to save the lake. There are many new trinkets, and a fine selection of books.

# Mono Lake Watch

## AIN'T IT NATURAL?

*and more emotional arguments . . .*



"Haven't you overemphasized the gull crisis?" queried the reporter.

He had just read a July 8 Los Angeles Department of Water and Power press release suggesting Mono's gulls were becoming too numerous. "Protection of nesting areas," says DWP, "removal of *natural* predators, such as coyotes . . . and the availability of additional forage at local garbage dumps and camping areas has helped to give these opportunistic gulls an advantage over other bird species dependent on the *natural* Mono Basin environment" [emphasis added].

Would DWP have us believe that coyotes belong on Negit Island? Negit didn't harbor mice, rabbits, coyotes or *any* mammals until DWP lowered the lake level.<sup>1</sup> Yet DWP bemoans the "removal of natural predators."

What about extra food from garbage dumps? Just a few years ago, when the spring hatch of brine shrimp plummeted by 95 percent, DWP was claiming there were more shrimp than gulls could ever eat.

Too many gulls? Prior to 1979, when coyotes crossed the land bridge and drove 33,000 gulls from Negit Island, gulls were raising more young than in any year since. As for "other bird species," they've been coexisting with gulls for thousands of years.<sup>2</sup>

C'mon, boys, what will you tell us next? That Mono Lake's problems are "natural," and have nothing to do with water diversions?

Of course! In a July 28 news release, DWP suggests that "the greatest biologic impact on the lake's ecosystem has been caused by natural factors." Criticism of water diversions, it complains, is "based more on emotional arguments than on actual knowledge of how the loss of water impacts life at the lake."

Does DWP believe that the drop in the lake is a "natural factor"? The loss of nesting islands? The increase in salinity? The decline in brine shrimp? The alkali dust storms?

DWP must know better. But it persists, like a guilty child, in denying all responsibility, even suggesting that the return of gulls to their ancestral Negit Island nesting haunts is somehow unnatural.

Last month, canoeing through herds of brine shrimp and flotillas of chocolate-brown baby gulls, I thought about that island. I remembered walking its flanks in 1976, picking my way through thousands of eggs, chicks and screaming gulls, an intense concentration of life energy. A few years later the birds were gone, the island engulfed in white alkali.

Mono's beauty, power and worth comes from more than birds, shrimp, tufa, islands or people alone. It comes from all these things together. It comes from wholeness. If we lose Negit Island, we maim this place. We make it ugly. We render it a mirror to our own greed.

Yes, we are emotional. We love Mono Lake. It has opened our hearts to beauties we hadn't imagined. It has, to quote Gray Brechin, made us "acutely aware of being alive on the planet." It has taught us we are brothers and sisters to all living things.

Perhaps we have overemphasized gulls. But we cannot overemphasize the value—to ourselves and future generations—of a living, healthy Mono Lake.

*David Gaines*

<sup>1</sup> Mice and coyotes were first noted on Negit Island after it became connected to the mainland in 1979, rabbits in 1980. Neither mice nor other native mammals or reptiles were reported on any of the islands previously, despite surveys and live trapping in 1972 and 1976. This is corroborated by local residents. Yet by 1981, mice had become numerous, not only on Negit, but on Paoha Island and some of the other islets which were never connected to the mainland. How they arrived is a mystery.

<sup>2</sup> DWP specifically suggests gulls are threatening snowy plovers and sage grouse. The evidence does not support this contention. While gulls do prey on the plover's eggs and chicks, they have not reduced the population, which has remained stable at approximately 400 birds since the first thorough census in 1979. Sage grouse actually have been increasing dramatically, probably due to protection from hunting and improved range conditions. Nest predation by gulls, which has yet to be documented in this area, must be insignificant.

# BRADLEY, L.A. TIMES: Conditional Support for Lake

## Deukmejian Still Uncommitted

Los Angeles Mayor and gubernatorial hopeful Tom Bradley has announced support for stabilizing Mono Lake "in a healthy environmental state," provided state and federal governments cooperate with Los Angeles "in contributing the necessary water and financial resources."

Bradley's announcement came the day after a Los Angeles Times editorial called Mono Lake "a unique natural asset that must be protected," and called for a negotiated settlement.

"The mayor should be praised for his leadership in shifting the city's position," said Mono Lake Committee Executive Director Martha Davis. "This is the first time Los Angeles has acknowledged that its water diversions have damaged Mono Lake."

Bradley called Mono Lake "a rare environmental jewel," and said Los Angeles "is ready to do its part to preserve Mono Lake," but added that "the city by itself is simply incapable of providing the replacement water and/or the millions of dollars needed each year to purchase alternative water." While Los Angeles, Bradley emphasized, could be expected to participate in some of the costs, "preserving the lake is a joint responsibility of the city, the state of California as a whole, and the federal government."

Bradley did not cite a lake level, stating only that Mono Lake should be stabilized in a "healthy environmental state."

The mayor did endorse, in general terms, the Mono Lake Committee's "wet year-dry year" compromise. Under this compromise, Los Angeles would divert little or no water in average or wet years with available alternative supplies. Then, during droughts when the water is really needed, Los Angeles could increase diversions and draw down the lake without endangering its ecosystem.

Bradley dwelt at length on obtaining and paying for replacement water. "Conservation efforts alone," he said, "will not provide the amount of water needed to replace that needed by Mono Lake . . . Los Angeles must combine strategies to reduce water consumption with those designed to replace the water lost to Mono Lake with high-quality and affordable water from other sources."

Bradley cited "difficult problems" with alternative sources, such as toxic contamination, pumping costs and legal hurdles. "Because of these problems," he stated, "it is impossible at this time to specify the best strategy for combining these sources to make up the additional volume of water needed to preserve Mono Lake."

As a first step, Bradley called for "discussions among appropriate city, state and federal officials, as well as with interested Mono County officials and other community and environmental leaders . . . [to] identify a strategy which will maintain the ecosystem of Mono Lake and guarantee Los Angeles an adequate supply of high-quality water."



Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley: Conditional support for saving a "rare environmental jewel." To Bradley's right are MLC founder Dave Gaines and daughter, Vireo.

The Aug. 26 Los Angeles Times editorial advocated a similar course. It urged Los Angeles and the Mono Lake Committee "to reconcile their differences out of court," and seek a negotiated settlement that both protects the lake and assures the city adequate water. "Both goals," said the Times, "can be achieved if modern water management and creative thinking are brought to bear on a California water plan for the 21st century."

Water has been a major focus of Bradley's gubernatorial campaign since last autumn, when he proposed a plan to end California's simmering north-south water wars. Environmentalists praised the mayor's emphasis on water conservation and Delta protection, but wondered what he would do about Mono Lake.

Now that Bradley has cautiously endorsed saving Mono Lake, Gov. Deukmejian may address the issue as well. In May, Deukmejian met with the Mono Lake Committee and 13 other environmental groups, but did not take a stand. MLC Executive Director Martha Davis, presaging the Times' editorial, told the governor that "a common sense solution must be developed which will both preserve Mono Lake and provide for Los Angeles' needs," and urged Deukmejian "to meet with all parties now, while the lake is high and the state has ample water supplies, to develop a management plan for Mono's permanent protection." The governor seemed interested, and asked a number of probing questions.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Take a minute *right now* to write or call or wire Gov. George Deukmejian (State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814). Urge him to take a stand on Mono Lake's behalf. This may be the most important thing you do for the lake this year.



## Court Orders DWP to Release Water

A brown trout convulsed frantically in the rapidly drying remnants of what had been, only hours before, a swiftly flowing stream. The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power had diverted the water from Lee Vining Creek, Mono Lake's second largest tributary.

Soon afterward, on Aug. 12, the Mono Lake Committee brought suit, and won the stream a reprieve. Mono County Superior Court Judge Edward Denton ordered DWP to release enough water to keep trout alive at least until the case is tried. Denton has scheduled a Jan. 15 trial date.

For the next few months, at least, a minimum of 10 cubic feet per second will flow down Lee Vining Creek into Mono Lake. That's only a trickle, but, combined with the 19 cfs court-ordered minimum flow in Rush Creek, it's enough to slow the lake's decline.

The Lee Vining Creek case is based largely on the same laws which prevented DWP from drying up Rush Creek two years ago: violation of Fish and Game codes which require dam owners to release enough water to keep "in good condition" downstream fisheries, and destruction of "public trust" values. Ultimately we seek permanent flows to protect, not only fish, but riparian vegetation, wildlife, recreation and other values as well.

The Lee Vining Creek suit is the latest salvo in a raging legal

## Rossmann "Bucket Run" Wins Bradley, L.A. Councilmember Support

On Aug. 28-30, attorney Antonio Rossmann ran 100 miles uphill from the Owens Valley to Mono Lake, carrying water from the Los Angeles Aqueduct intake. "My run," he said in a letter to political leaders, "will follow the themes of celebration and protest: celebration of the privilege to enjoy the natural wonders of the Eastern Sierra, and protest that public agencies have failed to exercise their authority to resolve the future of Mono Lake."

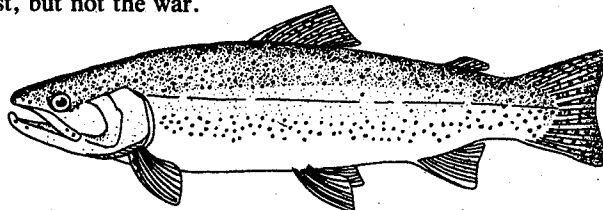
Rossmann succeeded, not only in reaching the lake, but also in garnering the support of Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley, L.A. City Council members Marvin Braude, Joy Picus, Michael Woo and Zev Yaroslavsky, and other political leaders. In addition to pledging up to a dollar per mile, they agreed "to urge public agencies and the citizen defenders of Mono Lake to govern the lake by consensus rather than remaining dependent upon court rulings or unilateral DWP decrees."

For over a decade Rossmann has been battling DWP in the courtroom. He has led Inyo County's efforts to prevent massive ground-water pumping from devastating Owens Valley. "I want to see an end to litigation," he says. "I want to see . . . consensus and collaboration . . . because no one knows better than a veteran of battle that war is not the answer."

battle to keep water flowing down all of Mono Lake's tributary streams. The battle began after the wet winters of 1982-83 forced DWP to release water into lower Rush Creek, the largest of these tributaries. Trout thrived and reproduced in the food-rich water. In 1984, when DWP tried to dry up the creek, California Trout, the Mono Lake Committee and National Audubon Society filed suit and won a preliminary injunction. DWP was forced to release at least 19 cubic feet per second down the creek into Mono Lake.

Since then the battle has split into three actions: (1) the original Rush Creek suit, (2) the new Lee Vining Creek suit, and (3) a broader action challenging the legality of DWP's state-granted licenses to divert water from any of Mono Lake's tributary streams. The Rush Creek case has been put on hold for two to three years while California Fish and Game studies the stream and determines the flows needed to sustain a healthy fishery. Meanwhile at least 19 cfs of water will continue to flow down Rush Creek to Mono Lake instead of down the aqueduct to Los Angeles.

The water license challenge suffered a setback Aug. 4, when Sacramento Superior Court Judge Lloyd A. Phillips Jr. ruled that the Fish and Game codes did not apply to DWP's Mono Basin diversions. The Mono Lake Committee and California Trout are appealing Phillips' brief, five-page decision, which did not even address most of our arguments. A battle has been lost, but not the war.



## Public Trust Update

The public trust suit, cornerstone of legal efforts to save Mono Lake, remains in jurisdictional limbo. It may be the end of the year, or longer, before the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals decides whether to send the case to state or federal court. Meanwhile there's nothing to do but wait.



The court order came too late to save these trout, which were stranded when DWP shut off Lee Vining Creek.

## DWP Resumes Diversions

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power resumed diversions from Mono Lake's tributary streams Aug. 6.

Diversions stopped in February, when torrential storms filled the aqueduct and reservoirs to capacity, forcing DWP to give the lake a drink. For the past six months, torrents of water have roared down Rush Creek and, intermittently, Lee Vining Creek. As a result, Mono Lake has risen to approximately 6,381 feet, its highest elevation since 1974.

While we rejoice in Mono's rise, let us not forget that DWP continues to take every drop it can. Mother Nature, not DWP, has granted the lake a reprieve.

## DWP Balks on Crowley EIR

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power wants to enlarge its Crowley Lake reservoir, but is balking at preparing a comprehensive Environmental Impact Report.

Based on preliminary engineering studies, DWP believes it is feasible to raise the dam up to 20 feet and increase storage by up to 70 percent. With a larger reservoir to fill, DWP could physically divert more water from Mono's tributary streams. In wet years, such as this one, it is only lack of storage that forces DWP to release water into Mono Lake.

The California Environmental Quality Act would seem to mandate an Environmental Impact Report that addresses not only the Crowley Lake region, but Mono Basin and Owens Valley as well, i.e., the entire aqueduct system. Yet DWP intends to prepare only a "negative declaration" (no significant impacts) or, at best, a narrowly circumscribed EIR that considers only the immediate Crowley Lake area. DWP officials "hope to separate Mono from CEQA by the commitment we would not increase diversions from Mono Basin to fill this project."

In a June press release, Mono County Supervisor Glenn M. Thompson blasted DWP's position as "outrageous, irresponsible and an insult to the citizens of the Eastern Sierra and all of California. DWP knows it cannot increase the capacity of Crowley Lake by 70 percent without impacting the environment . . . from Mono Basin to Owens Dry Lake. For them to attempt to do so without complying with state law and doing appropriate and necessary environmental impact studies is beyond belief."

At a July 21 public meeting in Mono County, Mono Lake Committee Chairman David Gaines told a standing-room-only crowd that "it is inconceivable this project could be developed without a full EIR. While the committee is not in outright opposition, we need more than a promise to maintain the status quo. We need guarantees that Mono Lake and its tributary streams will always remain alive and healthy."

In a July 11 editorial, the Los Angeles Herald Examiner conditioned support for the reservoir expansion on "firm

guarantees" that Mono Lake will not be reduced "below its present shrunken level." The Mono County Board of Supervisors has taken a similar stand (see below).

## Mono County Ties Crowley to Saving Mono Lake

The Mono County Board of Supervisors will support the enlargement of Crowley Lake reservoir only if the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power also agrees to save Mono Lake.

In a resolution passed unanimously Aug. 12, the board calls Mono Lake "a resource with significant scenic, historic, environmental, tourist and recreational values . . . all of which deserve protection." The resolution makes it county policy to protect and enhance these values, and "to reach agreements on minimum desirable elevations of Mono Lake." If such agreements are consummated, the county will cooperate with DWP on the Crowley Lake expansion.

The Mammoth Lakes Town Council has unanimously passed a similar but even stronger resolution.

**WHAT YOU SHOULD DO:** Take a moment to thank the Mono County Board of Supervisors for taking a strong stand on Mono Lake's behalf (Mono County Board of Supervisors, County Courthouse, Bridgeport, CA 93517).

## MONO LAKE: Missing a New Opportunity

Opinion by Antonio Rossmann

*Antonio Rossmann teaches water and environmental law at UCLA. He prosecuted Inyo County's successful case against the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's pumping of ground water in the Owens Valley, and has long championed saving Mono Lake. Last month he ran 100 miles uphill from the aqueduct intake to Mono Lake, joining bike-a-thoners and bucket walkers for our rehydration ceremony (see p. 5). This op-ed piece is excerpted from the July 21 Los Angeles Times.*

Yogi Berra had a phrase for it: it's like déjà vu all over again.

A decade and a half ago the engineers of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power decided to pump the Owens Valley's ground water without preparing an Environmental Assessment.

After 12 years of litigation the DWP was ordered three times by a Sacramento appeals court to prepare an Environmental Impact Report and follows its conclusions. Along the way the court rewrote California water law, subordinating DWP's proprietary interest in its Owens Valley water to the greater public interest in the valley's environment. Just last year a peace treaty was finally concluded, which made Inyo County an equal partner in the management of DWP's Owens Valley ground water.

Having experiences such a costly lesson, the DWP would not be expected to repeat its mistakes right away. But the engineers

are at it again. This time they propose a major enlargement of DWP's Crowley Lake reservoir without preparing an Environmental Impact Report. The tragedy lies in the missed opportunity, not just to comply with the law, but also, more importantly, to secure peace with the defenders of Mono Lake to the north.

The proposed expansion of Crowley Lake represents a two-edged sword. DWP contends that the expansion would provide storage of excess water in wet years and reduce the need to take upstream Mono Basin water in times of drought. But environmentalists respond that a larger reservoir would increase DWP's ability and appetite to take more Mono water at any time, thus placing the lake at even greater risk than at present.

Both sides are right. And that is precisely why an Environmental Impact Report is needed: so that both decision-makers and the public will become aware of the project's risks and benefits, and learn if an operating program can be adopted to avoid the former and secure the latter. In the case of Crowley reservoir I firmly believe that the project can be justified as benefiting both Mono Lake and Los Angeles.

But the DWP balks for two understandable if misguided reasons. First, the engineers rightly fear that if they start an impact report on Crowley Lake they will soon be forced to assess and expose their entire Mono Basin operations. But that larger duty will be enforced whether or not Crowley expands. Three years ago the California Supreme Court ordered precisely that reassessment of all of DWP's Mono Lake impacts.

This fact leads to DWP's second reason: Why should it do something that it is not forced to do? An engineer's life, after all, is easier answering only to other engineers or the occasional advances of the city's politicians, and not the public or the Eastern Sierra's defenders. In the meantime, DWP can take the water at will.

But DWP and Los Angeles' elected officials should not forget so easily their recent Owens Valley ground-water experience. Do they want additional legal precedent cutting into their water rights? Do they want to become again the outcasts of the state's water establishment? Does Mayor Tom Bradley, who aspires to prove himself worthy of governing the entire state, need the criticism again that he has failed to lead DWP on a course that simultaneously benefits his own metropolis and the remote environment of the Eastern Sierra?

The single response to these questions has to be "no." The path to follow is simple: DWP should get on with an Environmental Assessment of all its Mono County operations, including an expanded Crowley reservoir. Ultimately this will lead DWP into peace and partnership with its high-country neighbors.

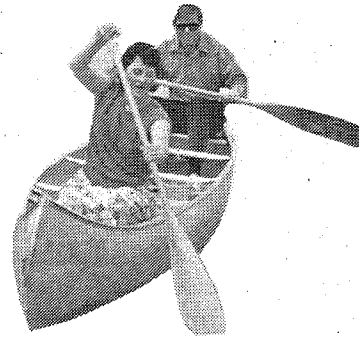
## RIPARIAN RESEARCH NEEDED

We're trying to interest graduate biology students and other qualified researchers in Mono Lake's tributary streams, especially lower Rush and Lee Vining creeks. We would especially welcome more information on wildlife populations and use, vegetation and its response to rewatering, and trout biology. If anyone is interested, please contact Ilene Mandelbaum at our Lee Vining office.

## House Approves Funds to Purchase Scenic Area Inholdings

The House of Representatives has earmarked \$400,000 for the purchase of inholdings in the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area. Congressman Richard Lehman requested the appropriation "to protect sensitive habitat for migratory waterfowl and important viewsheds," and to alleviate "hardship cases among private property owners." The bill must still pass the Senate.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Please urge Sens. Alan Cranston and Pete Wilson (Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510) to support this appropriation in the Senate versions of the Interior Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 1987.



*Congressman Richard Lehman joined MLC Executive Director Martha Davis for a Mono Lake canoe trip last May. Lehman, who authored the scenic area legislation, continues to push for lake protection.*

## Wheelchair Access at South Tufa, County Park

The Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve has hardened the trail to South Tufa and extended the boardwalk at the Mono Lake County Park, facilitating handicapped access to two of the lake's most spectacular features. The projects also help protect vegetation from trampling feet.

At South Tufa, visitors had been skirting the old sandy trail for years, creating a broad swath between the parking area and the lake. By hardening the trail with "soil cement," State Reserve rangers hope to provide wheelchair access while protecting adjacent vegetation.

In June, volunteers from the Eastern Sierra Audubon Society and the Mono Lake Committee helped extend the Mono Lake County Park's redwood boardwalk the rest of the way to the lake shore. The State Park Volunteer Fund contributed \$8,000 to pay for supplies.

## Memorial Contribution

We gratefully acknowledge a contribution from Jon Henry Kouba in memory of Philip H. Angell Sr., who years ago defended the lake in litigation with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

## Good Year for Gulls

"Productivity could be the greatest since our California gull studies began," comments Point Reyes Bird Observatory biologist David Shuford.

Early signs indicate a banner year. On the interagency gull census July 7, Shuford and others tallied almost 26,000 chicks; approximately 6,000 more than last year. By late July, chocolate-colored juvenile gulls were thronging to Mono's beaches, outnumbering adults in many areas.

At least part of this increase is attributable to the return of over 1,200 nesting adults to ancestral haunts on Negit Island. As recently as 1978, this rugged volcanic island supported approximately 33,000, the largest colony in California. In 1979, however, the lowering lake level exposed a land bridge between Negit and the mainland. Coyotes crossed the land bridge, routing nesting gulls and preying on their eggs and chicks.

Since 1979, most of Mono Lake's 40,000 to 50,000 nesting gulls have crowded onto small islets, where nesting success appears to have suffered. Some biologists have attributed the decline directly to the loss of Negit's nesting habitat.

Since 1982, the lake has risen nine feet and restored Negit to island status. Until last year, however, the continued presence of coyotes prevented the return of nesting gulls.

"The habitat on Negit is almost unlimited," comments Shuford. "Mono's entire population could fit on that island. If the lake level is kept high, we will have the next few years to compare reproductive success with that on the islets."

While a handful of gulls also nested on Paoha Island for the first time since the 1920s, most of the population remains crowded on the small islets.<sup>1</sup> On Twain Islet northeast of Negit, 11,985 nests were tallied on only 13 acres, almost twice as many as any other islet. What a contrast to 1982, when Twain became connected to the mainland and coyotes routed its nesting gulls. Twain, like Negit Island, was resurrected by Mono's rising waters in 1984.

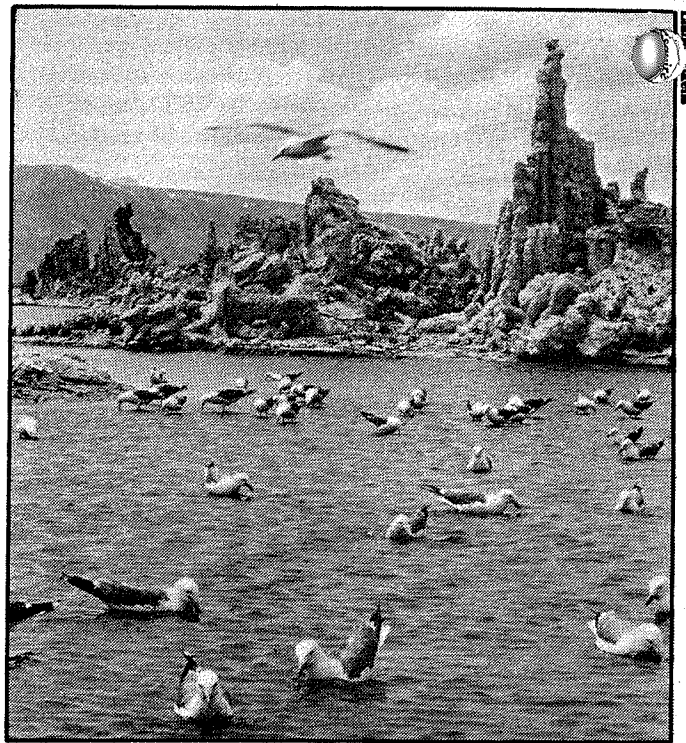
<sup>1</sup> The Paoha Island gulls actually nested on a small peninsula which later became an islet as the lake rose.

## DWP Funds Underwater Study

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power is funding a five-month "bathymetric and geophysical survey" of Mono Lake's "underwater features."

According to DWP, the \$242,000 study by Pelagos Corp. of San Diego "will determine conclusively whether new islands will appear in the lake and how much nesting habitat will be available at various lake levels . . . The study will also identify the tufa formations and locations of underwater springs which will be exposed . . . The overall goal . . . is to provide information which will allow future decisions regarding the lake elevations to be based on facts rather than speculation."

The information, says DWP, will be provided to the National Academy of Sciences Mono Basin Ecosystem Study Committee, which Congress has charged with assessing the effects of changing lake levels. The committee, composed of 11 distinguished scientists from across the country, plans to complete a final report by June of next year.



## NEW CUCKOO AT MONO

It's always crazy around here, but the appearance of an immature black-billed cuckoo Aug. 25 really stirred things. The next day birdwatchers migrated from as far away as San Diego, but to no avail; this rare easterner had vanished. Among other rare birds this summer were semipalmated sandpipers, wandering tattler, Sabine's gull and eastern kingbird. Dave Gaines is at work on his new book, *Birds of Yosemite and the East Slope*, which will cover Mono's birdlife in exhaustive detail.

## Correction

Contrary to our Summer 1986 newsletter, Gayle Dana's recently published paper on the effects of increasing salinity on Mono Lake's brine shrimp was funded, not by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, but by the Lucile and David Packard Foundation and the Mono County Fish and Game Commission. In that paper, Dana concludes that if DWP's diversions continue at their present rate, extinction of the brine shrimp "is highly probable . . . well below the salinities projected for Mono Lake when it reaches equilibrium."

## Christmas Bird Count Dec. 31

The 10th annual Mono Lake Christmas Bird Count has been scheduled Wednesday, Dec. 31. Everyone is invited. You need not be an expert to contribute to this annual count of every bird within a 15-mile diameter circle centered along Mono's west shore. The Mono Lake Committee offers all counters a place to throw a sleeping bag. There will be a compilation and potluck dinner on New Year's Eve. Bring plenty of warm clothes, and don't forget skis and binoculars. For more information, call (619) 647-6386.



# How the West was Lost

by Wallace Stegner

Adapted from a Los Angeles Times article.

Everything that makes the West different from other regions, and everything that I loved about it while I was growing up in it, derives from aridity. Much of what is wrong with it now derives from our arrogant belief that we can conquer aridity and remake the region.

Except for parts of the Pacific Littoral, mainly in Washington and Oregon, either there is not enough rain for unaided agriculture, or the rain falls at the wrong season. Great reaches of the desert and plains will support only a meager population. Animals there adapt to drought or become extremely mobile, and in general live sparsely. So, for a good while, did people. They learned to adapt and accept. Walter Webb was right, as late as the 1950s, in calling the West an oasis of civilization.

Aridity has consequences both physical and spiritual. One is a sharp change in erosional landforms; another is a greatly altered flora; another an intensification of light. Those mean new shapes and colors. When artists started to paint the West they had to learn a new eye and a new palette, and virtually forget green.

Another consequence is spaciousness, an enlarging and exhilarating sense of openness and freedom. The air is dry and clear, the scale enormous. Still another consequence is the public domain. It is concentrated in the 11 western states, and it remains public because the land was generally too dry and apparently worthless to tempt private owners. The West's spaciousness depends on it. It holds the oases apart.

But the vital resource of the West is water, not land. Land without water is worthless for agricultural, industrial or municipal use. In the 50 years since the building of Hoover Dam, every major western river has been harnessed and the West transformed.

Many people look with wonder and pride on the water engineering that has made all this possible. I guess I think of it as original sin.

For this West is not what it was before we began to manhandle it and change it into what it was never meant to be and cannot remain. Every western state is overpopulated, some grossly so. We grow beyond our limits, and there are consequences of our intemperate thinking. Those consequences are everywhere, and they make the West less livable as it grows greater economically and politically.

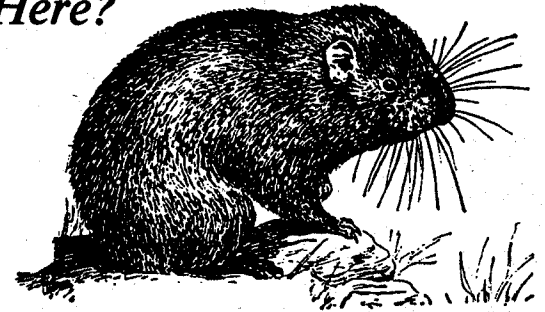
There is just not enough water. Every river is oversubscribed. Dams will eventually silt up or wash out, and new sites are not unlimited. Even the underground water is not forever. In the Central Valley, the Santa Clara Valley, Tucson, western Nebraska, the pumps go night and day, recklessly lowering the water table, sometimes by 100 feet or more, killing the goose that up to now has laid golden eggs.

The West cannot carry what it has lifted. It will make heroic efforts, always in the direction of more grandiose engineering works, and in the end it will subside back to what it was meant to be, an oasis civilization with one great deficiency and all the advantages that would flow from it if we would scale down our demands on our resources. Original sin, while temporarily

providing a livelihood for many, has depreciated life for all, and brought death into the world, with loss of Eden.

We need a moratorium on boosters and developers and raiders who can't or won't see the consequences of their acts. We need to scale down our expectations and advise a lot of hopeful immigrants that what they seek is not here. For in creating the modern West we have gone a long way toward ruining this magnificent and fragile habitat. And as Marcus Aurelius said a long time ago, what is bad for the beehive cannot be good for the bee.

## MONO'S APLODONTIAS, or What Are Mountain Beaver Doing Here?



On July 22, 1976, biologist Dale Steele observed a dark, chunky, nearly tailless, muskrat-sized animal foraging near the west shore of Mono Lake. It was *Aplodontia rufa*, the mountain beaver, a little-known rodent that belongs to a different family than the true beaver.

This is a surprising place to find an animal that, throughout most of its limited range in northern California and western Oregon and Washington, is wedded to humid, dense forests, cool, wet climates and deep soils. The only other records east of the Sierran crest are from the much wetter Lake Tahoe and Mammoth Lakes areas.

Steele hopes to learn how mountain beavers survive Mono's dry conditions and extreme temperature fluctuations. They are known to have a limited ability to regulate body temperature and conserve water, and consume a large fraction of their body weight in water each day.

Millions of years ago, before the Sierra Nevada rose to block Pacific storms, mountain beavers were distributed across the Great Basin. As the climate dried and coniferous forest gave way to scrub desert, the beaver's range contracted to the northwest. Mono's beavers are a relic Great Basin population surviving under climatic conditions that would seem to preclude their survival.

According to John Harris' fine booklet, "Mammals of the Mono Lake-Tioga Pass Region," the mountain beaver is a consummate burrower. Its long, sharp front claws are ideally suited for digging in moist, deep soil. Food, almost anything green, is stored in piles. The animals will climb pine and fir saplings, snapping off young twigs. They are most easily detected by the presence of burrows and clipped plants.

If you have seen this animal or signs of its presence in the Mono Basin, please contact Dale Steele at 310 E. Sonoma Ave., Stockton, CA 95204; (209) 948-7865.



## THE KUZEDIKA PAIUTE: *A Photographic Essay*

*Photographs by C. Hart Merriam from  
the Bancroft Library, University of  
California, Berkeley*

Only 130 years ago, Mono Lake was a blank spot on the white man's map. Nomadic hunters, gatherers and traders dwelt along its shores. They were known to their neighbors as the *Kuzedika*, the *fly-pupae eaters*, for they harvested the pupae and larvae of Mono's brine flies at the end of each summer.

"They come from far and near to gather them," wrote William Brewer in 1863. "The worms [pupae] are dried in the sun, the shell rubbed off, when a yellowish kernel remains, like a small grain of rice. This is oily, very nutritious, and not unpleasant to the taste, and under the name *kutsavi* forms a very important article of food. The Indians gave me some. It does not taste bad, and if one were ignorant of its origins, it would make a fine soup."

Using tools fashioned of stone, wood and bone, the Kuzedika Paiute survived in a land that dismayed its first white visitors. They were expert naturalists, intimate by inclination and necessity with every bird, animal and plant. When the snow melted in the mountains, they carried heavily laden, elegantly woven willow baskets over the same ancient Mono Pass trail used by present-day backpackers. They traveled as far west as Yosemite Valley, bartering obsidian, pinon nuts, *kutsavi* and salt for acorns, manzanita berries and bear skins. In the autumn, when caches were full of pinon nuts, *kutsavi*, seeds and rabbit meat, they celebrated with feasts and dances, gambling and games. Storytellers passed the long winter nights with tales of coyote and the creation of Mono Lake.

Or so we must conjecture, for the aboriginal lifeway has been all but obliterated. Only an occasional arrowhead on a lonely beach reminds us of the people who belonged to this land as much as it belonged to them. We, by comparison, are strangers, tourists, newcomers.

Much of what we do know about the Kuzedika derives from a remarkable naturalist who spent the last three decades of his life hunting up, photographing, interviewing and befriending aged California Indians, and writing down what they were still able to tell him. Between 1900 and 1910, C. Hart Merriam visited Mono Lake several times. "It has been my fortune," he wrote, "to meet nearly all of the Mono Indians. They are skillful horsemen, brought up in the saddle, and most of them are well-formed, good-looking, and intelligent. They have a keen sense of humor, and both men and women laugh heartily

at droll incidents and at jokes that do not involve them in ridicule; but they are highly sensitive and dislike exceedingly to be made fun of by white men."

Merriam's photographs reveal a stoic, disinherited people doomed to become the outcasts of the white man's world. The quotes are from his *Studies of California Indians* (University of California Press, 1955).



*Kuzedika woman in Yosemite Valley, ca. 1900. The Kuzedika were avid traders, and often journeyed across the Sierra to trade and barter with the Yosemite Indians. Photo by J.T. Boysen, courtesy of Yosemite National Park Research Library.*



*"In summer they live in open brush huts, in front of which is a cleared place 15 or 20 feet in diameter, which may be completely enclosed by a rough fence of uprooted sagebrush." Notice the gull wings hanging from the hut; the Kuzedika "are quite willing to dine on gulls, grebes, or such other species as they are able to secure."*



## Rename Navy Beach

by Kutsavi

Just 25 years ago, Mono's south shore beach of fine pumice sand had no name. Had no road, either. In the 1960s, the Navy wanted a quiet, out-of-the-way lake in which to set off explosives, measure the waves they generated, and determine if nuclear-triggered tidal waves could swamp coastal cities. They built roads and docks, detonated bombs, blew up a few hundred birds and a few million brine shrimp, and returned 20 years later to clean up the mess.

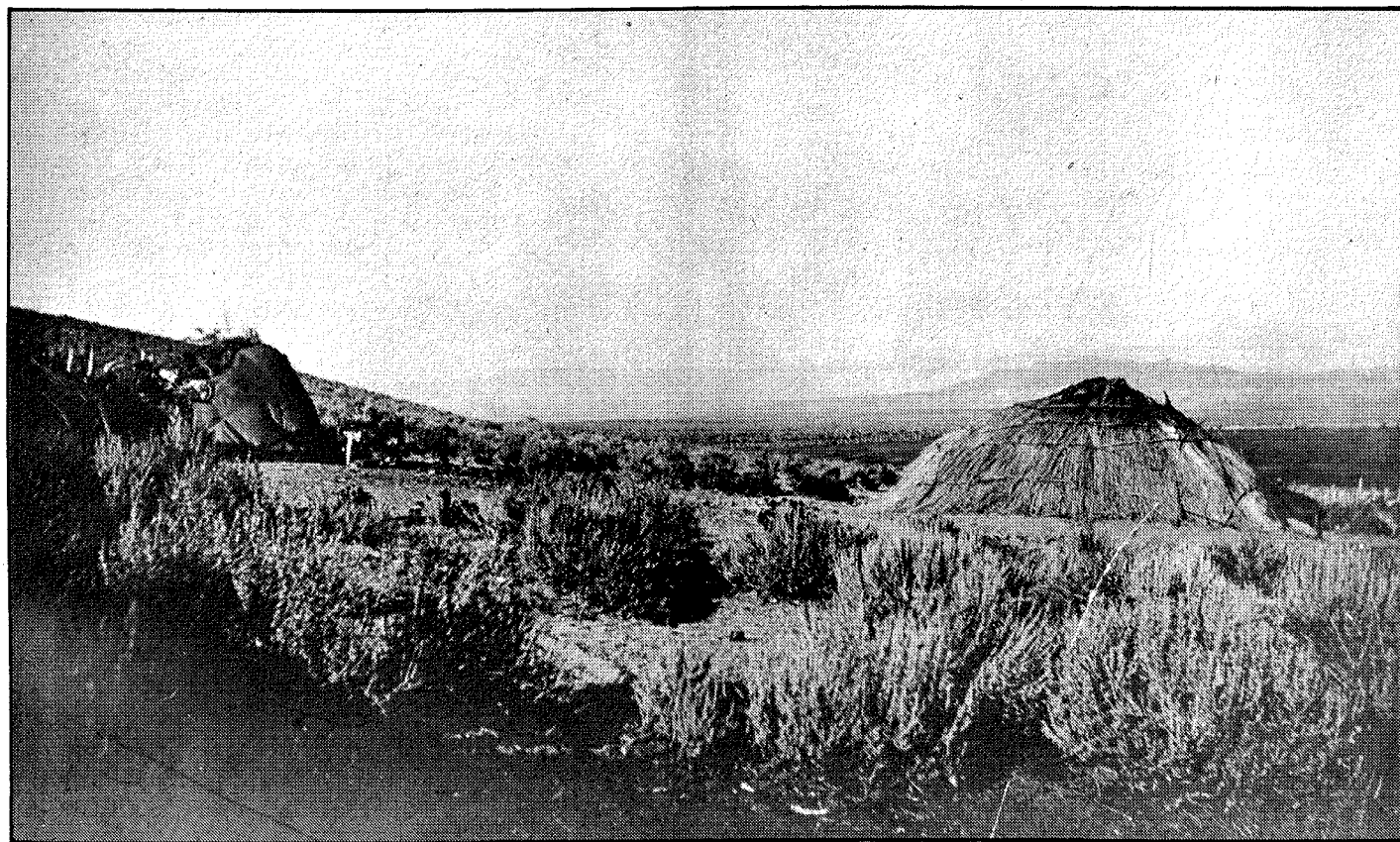
Locals began to call the area "Navy Beach." Now I generally believe local names should be respected. But this one is hardly hoary with tradition. It memorializes a brief military exercise that should never have happened, and hopefully will never happen again. Now is the time, with the Forest Service drafting a management plan, to rebaptize Navy Beach with a meaningful, appropriate name.

"Pumice Beach" befits its geology, "Plover Beach" its delicate avian inhabitants. But I lean toward perpetuating the Kuzedika Paiute word for Mono Lake, which the ethnographer Emma Lou Davis transliterates as "Kuzapa." "Kuzapa Beach" has a fine, almost Hawaiian volcanic sound that, to my ear, blends well with Negit, Paoña and Panum.

If you wish to support or condemn this suggestion, you can contact: Nancy Upham, Manager, Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area, P.O. Box 9, Lee Vining, CA 93541.



*Kuzedika woman holding a storage basket; on the ground to her left lies a winnowing tray and a burden basket. The Kuzedika were master basketweavers. "These baskets may be classed by forms or uses into a dozen categories: cradles or papoose baskets, large cornucopia-shaped burden baskets, snowshoe-shaped and scoop-shaped winnowing baskets, spoon-shaped baskets with handles for collecting pine nuts, deep bowl-shaped baskets for cooking, jugs and bottles for holding and carrying water . . . Some of the baskets are plain; others ornamented with intricate, striking and beautiful designs, woven in black and red."*



*"The winter huts are conical or dome shaped and are completely closed. Some are of thatched straw or tule; others are of slender upright willow poles interwoven with small brush." This photograph looks east across what is now Hwy. 395 toward Panum Crater.*

## MONO BLUES

Full cup of summer emptied now.  
Rain and blood diverted from the heartland.

So much pleasure  
So much pain  
Remains to chart a journey never ended.  
A journey 'neath a sky of flowing cloud  
A shore of white.  
Rain above the craters  
Lightning in the sunglow.  
A diadem  
Of mountain bluebird blue  
And swallow violet-green.

Today I heard the water  
Flowing from beneath me  
Out of earth.  
Here is springs beginning  
Crusty tufa heart  
Birthing place of birds, seeds and harvest wind.  
They winnow in the sky  
And turn to light  
Winged butterflies on speedwell.  
Windy blood begins  
The season's incandescent birth.

the rain on water.  
Still the rain on sand.

Listening the waves  
On salty shores.  
The sea is swept by wind.  
What is clung to falls away  
Like petals of anemones.  
Curlews cry cur-lee  
Are gone.  
On the mountain larkspurs bloom and fade.

Wandering the streambeds unemployed.  
Dry stones, rainy days.  
Diversions to the dead land.  
Killdeer cry for life  
Their own Their kin.  
Tonight in sleep I see  
Alone and lonesome lovedreams  
Sea and sand  
Screaming crying  
High and white in empty blue.

I walk this road to nowhere  
Heart light and hand empty,  
But startle like the snipe  
Before the memory of beauty  
rise in dream above the sea, ripening.

Gone too long.  
The sea of eggs becomes a sea of bones.  
A selfish love becomes a selfish hate.

## VISIONS



Ten years ago  
I saw this martyred sea  
From Mono Pass.  
We sang our lovesongs  
To the wind.  
Greed, our own  
Is killing her.  
Visions laid to waste.  
A thirst no water ever quenched  
At last will flee in flames  
Its hungry ghosts.

For all these trips around the sun  
Winters, springs  
How little learned.  
Take these eyes and cast them to the sea.  
The heart of here  
The heaven in our blood  
Is watered by our love  
For each and every other.

Still the wind on water.  
Still the wind on sand.

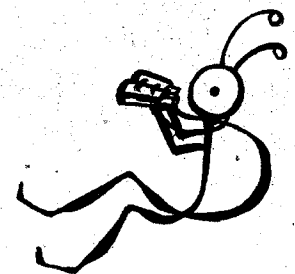
## Beach East of Negit

Come . .  
Sit with me  
at Mono Lake  
on a vast, open shore  
and imagine . . . long ago . . .  
Doze off in the early morning heat . . .  
Squint across the deserted beach . . .  
Watch the heat waves migrate north . . .  
Puffy clouds moving west  
growing larger over  
massive  
silent  
Sierran peaks,  
(a sage sparrow twitters  
overhead  
a white butterfly dances  
above the black-pebbled  
volcanic foreground)

There is silence here  
The kind that rings . . .  
in your ears.

So come,  
sit,  
bask,  
and  
contemplate  
what you are . . .  
and  
what there is . . .

... Robert Stewart



... Solitaire



## MLC NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

### 10K Run

A crowd of 165 runners sped to the finish line in the fourth annual "Long Live Mono Lake 10K Run" on Mono's north shore Aug. 17. The event raised approximately \$2,000 toward saving the lake.

The Mono Lake Committee is extremely grateful to race director Dennis Yamnitsky and to the many sponsors and helpers whose generous gifts made the run a success. We will miss Dennis' tireless energy and enthusiasm, as he moved to Mt. Hood, Ore. Anyone wishing to help organize the 1987 Long Live Mono Lake 10K should contact our Lee Vining office for details.

### 10K Run Sponsors and Donors

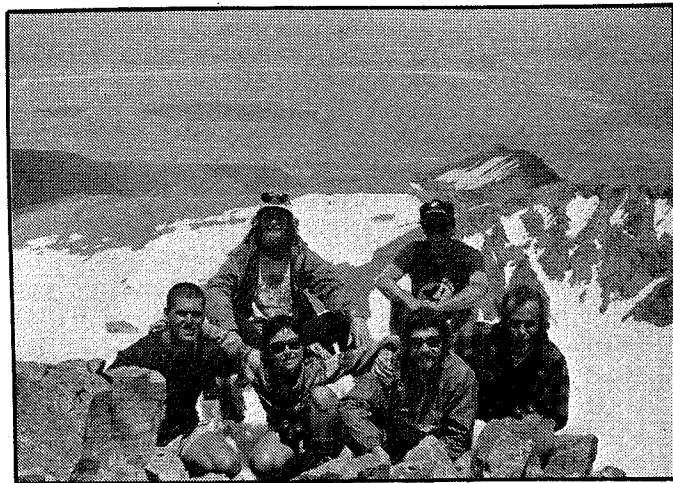
Booky Joint, Mammoth Lakes; Calistoga Water; Chart House restaurant; Gillespie Distributing-Lite Beer; Lakeview Motel, Lee Vining; Joe's Market, Bishop; Joe's Market, Mammoth Lakes; Bill Nickel, Plaques; Jeanie Bankston, Plaques; Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory, Mammoth Lakes; Roget's restaurant; Safeway Stores, Bishop; Schat's Bakery, Mammoth Lakes; Shoe Box, Bishop; Spellbinder Books, Bishop; Tioga Pass Resort; Wilson-Wheeler Boots, Bishop; The Winery, Mammoth Lakes; and Yosemite Park and Curry Co.  
WINERIES: Caymus Winery; Caneros Creek; Domaine Chandon; Dry Creek; Iron Horse; Mike Golick; Mill Creek; Rutherford Vintners; Schramsberg; Charles F. Shaw; and Stevenot.

### Mono Lake Internships

We may have openings for winter (January-May) or spring (April-May) interns in our Lee Vining office, and will have openings next summer (June-August). Interns work full time staffing our information center, answering mail, leading field trips and on other projects. To apply or for further information, please contact our Lee Vining office, or arrange an interview (highly recommended). Application deadlines are Nov. 30 (winter), Feb. 28 (spring) and May 31 (summer).



Tony Rossmann, Father Christopher Kelley and MLC Executive Director Martha Davis lead the rehydration ceremony at the conclusion of the bike-a-thon and bucket walk. Said Kelley, "In returning this water, we touch something at the core of ourselves."



MLC interns, staff and friends at the summit of 13,000-foot Mt. Dana. From left to right are interns Bob Oberlin, Jason Winett, Emilie Strauss and Kevin Hepburn, helper Al, and MLC founder Dave Gaines. Not shown are interns Colin Dillingham, Donna Raupp and David Tyler, whose energy and dedication won Mono Lake thousands of new friends this summer.

### MLC Membership Survey

A random sample of MLC members will be receiving our first membership survey in the next couple of months. The survey will help us evaluate ourselves, recruit more members and raise more funds. Thank you for your help.

### 1986 Drawing Successful

Thanks to everyone for making our drawing an incredible success. We hoped to net \$35,000; in fact, we're approaching \$50,000. A propitious time, too, for the additional funds are crucial to our new lawsuits, which are keeping water in Lee Vining and Rush creeks.

### File Cabinet Needed

Our Los Angeles office needs a file cabinet, ideally four drawers, but smaller ones are welcome too. If you can help, please let us know.

### LEE VINING CREEK INFORMATION NEEDED

Thanks to the many people who responded to our appeal for Rush Creek information last newsletter. Now we need more information on lower Lee Vining Creek. Have you been fishing, hiking, hunting, camping, boating, birdwatching, picture-taking or enjoying other recreational activities along Lee Vining Creek between DWP's diversion dam and Mono Lake? Whether recently or 40 years ago, we'd like to hear from you. Please contact Ilene Mandelbaum at our Lee Vining office.

## AND NUEVO ELEPHANT SEALS, And Future Fund- Raising Excursions

The indefatigable Mildred Bennett, whose Galapagos trip netted approximately \$11,000 for saving Mono Lake, is hard at work organizing seal-watching trips to Ano Nuevo for January and February, and an incredible Alaskan excursion for June (see p. 15). For information about Ano Nuevo, please call Mildred in late November at (415) 526-1260.

Mildred tells us there was considerable interest in organizing future trips to New Zealand and Australia, Costa Rican national parks and Kenya. These journeys require a couple of years to plan, so please be patient.

Working entirely as a volunteer, Mildred has raised over \$40,000 for saving Mono Lake. Her trips are comfortable, intimate, unforgettable natural experiences. She, and people like her, inspire and energize us, and we are deeply grateful.



Approximately 100 bucket walkers and friends whoop and holler as 65 Los Angeles-to-Mono Lake bike-a-thoners swoop down to Mono Lake.

## Accolades

We would like to thank all the volunteers and dedicated supporters who have helped our efforts to save Mono Lake. Your hard work and tireless energy are deeply appreciated.

Special thanks to Doug Goldenberg and Lady Jill Mueller for repainting the front of our Lee Vining Visitor Center. It looks terrific, and we're glad Doug survived dangling by ropes to get the top part done. We've also deeply grateful to Joe Morris for volunteering his help on the interior lighting.

Many people continue to donate items to our visitor center to help raise funds. Thelma Prescott provided a supply of handmade owl potholders for sale. Bret Lyon donated 20 copies of his *Bret Lyon Personal Power Program*. Ann and Riley Gilkey, Jean Dale, Ed Grosswiler and the Harold Feters family all gave used books and bags.

Finally, thanks once again to the Ansel Adams Gallery in Yosemite for selling bumper stickers and all-around support; to Golden Gate Audubon Society and Mildred Bennett for side merchandising on behalf of the MLC; and big thanks to the Palos Verdes, Laguna Hills and Kern Audubon societies and the River Touring Section of the Los Angeles chapter of the Sierra Club for their generous levels of support.



## ALASKA IN '87: An Experience for You, a Benefit for Mono Lake

As a sequel to our successful trip to the Galapagos Islands and Peru this year, which netted approximately \$11,000 for saving Mono Lake, we are planning a superb wildlands experience in Alaska for June 1987.

The extra-special highlight will be five full days at Camp Denali on the north side of Denali National Park. This is certain to be a wonderful wilderness experience you will never forget. We stay in comfortable, individual log cabins, complete with stoves, pumps and private baths. Birds and wildlife abound, and the view of Mt. Denali (McKinley) when the clouds dissipate is grand beyond description. There are activities for the physically active and not-so-active, and young and old can all pursue interests on their own levels.

In addition, the two-week sojourn which starts at Anchorage will include excursions to the fjord country and wildlife refuges of the Kanai Peninsula; Prince William Sound and Columbia Glacier; Valdez; Glennallen; and the new Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. There will also be visits to museums and native villages, all accompanied by knowledgeable naturalists and guides. As an option, the trip can be extended to include a two-night stay at spectacular Glacier Bay National Park, and return via Juneau and the Inside Passage.

This journey will not be a "touch-base" kind of trip, but will offer time for savoring the environment. It is a special experience for those special kinds of people who love nature, wildlands and open space. If this sounds like you, please send a self-addressed, legal-size envelope for full information to: ALASKA '87, c/o M. Bennett, 2719 Marin Ave., Berkeley, CA 94708.

## MONO LAKE BIRD-A-THON

This is your chance to support our bird-brained chairman and founder, Dave Gaines, on the seventh Mono Lake Committee/Point Reyes Bird Observatory bird-a-thon. It's simple: just pledge a dollar, quarter, dime or whatever you can afford for every species of bird Dave tallies around Mono Lake Oct. 5 (about 80 species). Or come out and join him! He welcomes fellow counters, even rank beginners, and it's a beautiful, quiet time to visit the lake. To pledge, or for more information, write or call Dave at: P.O. Box 119, Lee Vining, CA 93541; (619) 647-6496 or 647-6386.

## MONO LAKE CATALOG: '87 Calendar and Other Trinkets

New this year is a superb 1987 calendar, "Save Mono Lake" license plate holders, custom-designed gold earrings, stationery and more! The calendar, in particular, is the best ever: 14 gorgeous color photographs, elegant drawings and a classic introductory essay excerpted from Israel Russell's 1888 treatise on Mono's geology. We've also added some fine new books, including Michael P. Cohen's superb essay on John Muir, *The Pathless Way* (reviewed below). Serious birdwatchers will want Grinnell and Miller's classic, *The Distribution of the Birds of California*, as well as Desante and Pyle's new *Distributional Checklist of North American Birds*.

Ardent monophiles Kim Fisher and Brian Day of *Fisher and Day Design Consultants* (2791 Greenwich St., Suite 6, San Francisco, CA 94123) donated their time, energy and expertise to design this year's catalog. Thank you, Kim and Brian.

## BOOK REVIEW: *John Muir's Pathless Way*

*The Pathless Way: John Muir and American Wilderness*, by Michael P. Cohen. University of Wisconsin Press. 1984. 408 pages. Cloth. \$25.

It is difficult to be original when writing about John Muir, but Michael Cohen has gone deeper than anyone else into the spirit in which Muir lived and worked. *The Pathless Way* reveals Muir as an individual torn by cross-current loyalties. The feisty young mountaineer develops his own spiritual and ecological consciousness against the forceful flow of his father's fundamentalist Christianity, the scientific community's obsession with Darwinism and cold objectivity, and the rigid aesthetic standards of the Victorian era.

As Muir seeks out the pathless way, we come to understand him as a man driven by a love for wild nature which transcends all else. His passionate devotion to his ultimate teacher, the "Range of Light," evolves into the radical revelation that all of nature is infused with God's essence. In his journal he writes, "The rocks and sublime canyons, the waters and winds, and all life structures—animals and ouzels, meadows and groves, and all the silver stars—are words of God, and they flow smooth and ripe from his lips."

Michael illustrates, through careful scholarship and sensitive prose, how Muir's enlightenment in the Sierra permeates his years of writing, speaking and lobbying for the preservation of wild places. Moreover the book explores the ways in which immersion in wilderness can transform each of us on a profound, theological level. This process not only informs our lives, but can be translated, with integrity, into the public sphere of culture and action.

The book ends on a far different tone, meditating on Muir's personal winter when he is defeated by the damming of Hetch Hetchy and forced to tone down his radical, inspired visions to please editors and readers. His life moves us deeply because we all fear that the brightness of our own enlightenment may likewise be compromised to the gods of industry and

practicality. We mourn that transformation in our elder Muir.

Michael's final point, however, is a positive one: Muir's vision lives in those of us who have been "baptised in nature's flow." Michael writes, "The truly pathless way is a spiritual journey and an unmapped landscape." Muir, with his Sierran saunters and preservation politics, has left us both elements. Through Michael's book, he shines as a lodestar for seekers in any wilderness.

... Lauren Davis

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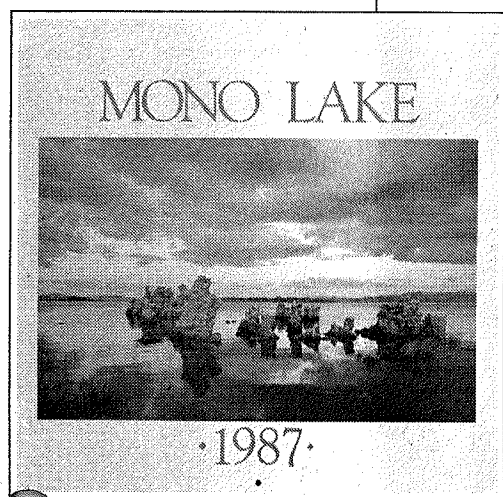
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ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE SAVE MONO LAKE CAMPAIGN

# MONO LAKE CATALOG

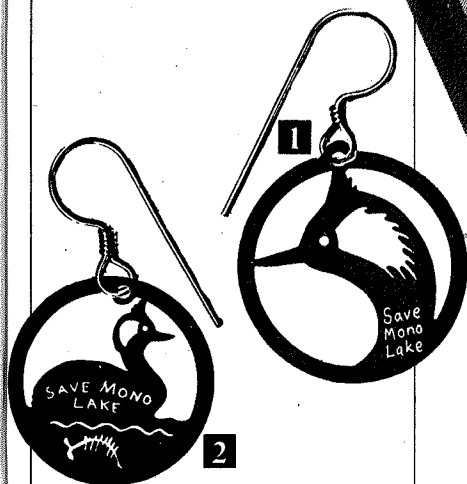
# '87

## MONO LAKE COLOR CALENDAR.

All new for 1987. Supurb color photographs capture Mono's beauty and magic. Includes wonderful essay excerpted from the writings of 19th century geologist Isreal Russell. A must for all monophiles. **Special Mono Lake Catalogue Price, \$7.95.**



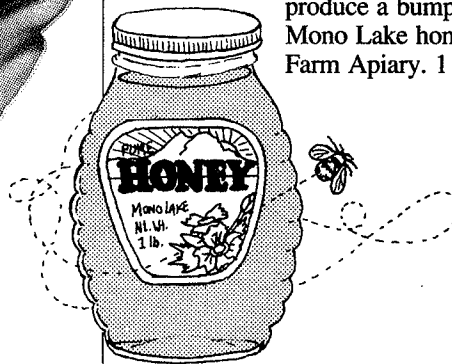
**MONO LAKE LICENSE PLATE HOLDER.** Sturdy metal design with white printing on blue background. Photo of lake not included. **\$4.00.**



**MONO LAKE EARRINGS.** 14K Gold-plated earrings with gold-filled ear wires. (1) Eared Grebe head, or (2) Grebe and Brine Shrimp. "Save Mono Lake" engraved on back of each. **\$10.00.**

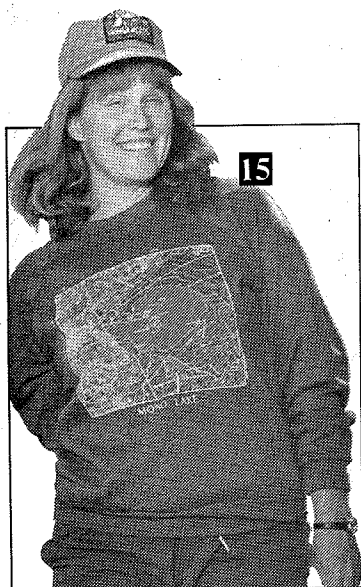
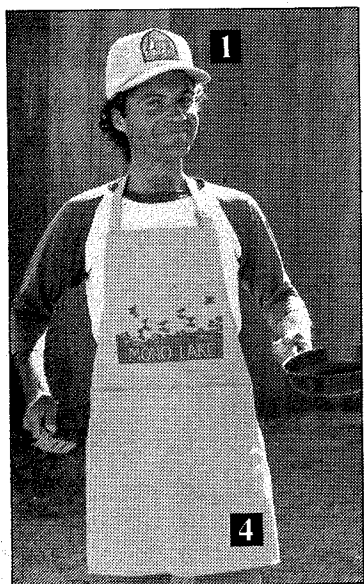
## MONO LAKE HONEY.

This year's fantastic flower display enabled local bees to produce a bumper crop of supurb Mono Lake honey. Starmoon Farm Apiary. 1 lb. jar, **\$4.50.**

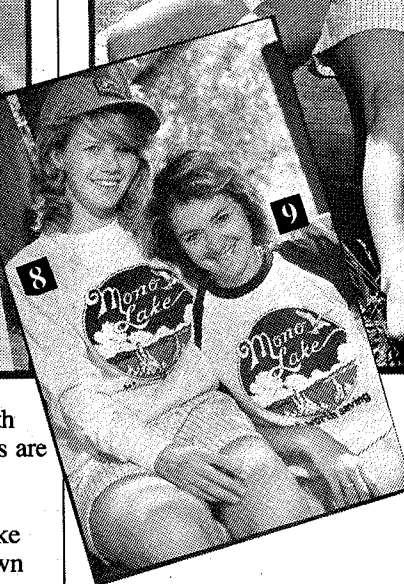




# MONO LAKE '87 CATALOG



**BODIE T-SHIRTS.** (12) "Bodie," 100% cotton on cream or white shirt, \$8.50; (13) "Bodie and Benton Railroad," 50% cotton, burgundy design on cream or blue shirt, \$8.50.



**MONO LAKE CAPS.** Adorn your pate with attractive, quality Mono Lake headgear. Sizes are adjustable, and fit everyone we know. (1) Corduroy caps are 100% cotton, pinwale corduroy adorned with our 5-color Mono Lake patch. Light blue, royal blue, red, beige, brown or black, \$8.00; (2) Canvas caps are 100% cotton. Same colors as corduroy plus spruce, pink, lilac and cream \$7.50; (3) Neon twill caps have elastic back and extra brim. Red, yellow, green or chartreuse. \$7.50.

## MONO LAKE SHOREBIRD APRONS, MONO LAKE SHOREBIRD

**T-SHIRTS.** (4) Shorebird aprons in blue or gray, \$9.95; (5) Shorebird T-shirts, 100% cotton, in white, light blue, royal blue, gray, pink or turquoise, \$8.50.

**MONO LAKE TOPO T-SHIRTS AND SWEATSHIRTS.** (14) (Not shown). Topo T-shirt, 100% cotton, in cream, red, gray or blue, \$9.95; (15) Topo sweatshirt in white, gray or light blue, \$16.95.

## MONO LAKE "IT'S WORTH SAVING" T-SHIRTS AND SWEATSHIRTS.

High-quality shirts silk screened with Rebecca Shearin's evocative and colorful design. Sizes S,M,L,XL. (6) Woman's China shirt, 100% cotton in white only, \$9.95; (7) Short-sleeved kid's in blue, pink or gray (no XL) \$7.00; (8) Sweatshirt in white, yellow, green or blue, \$16.00; (9) Baseball jersey with red, powder blue or navy sleeves, \$9.00; (10) (Not shown). Short-sleeved men's in blue, gray, cream, \$8.50; (11) (Not shown). Long-sleeved in lilac, powder blue or cream, \$11.00.

## MONO LAKE CATALOG '87

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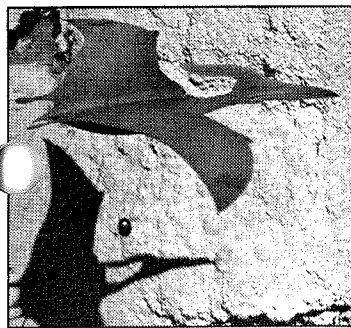
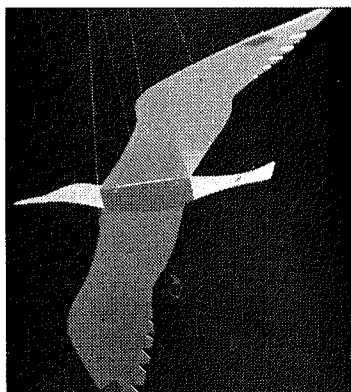
T-SHIRTS, POSTERS, CALENDARS, BOOKS AND MORE!





#### TODDLER T-SHIRTS.

"Another Baby for Mono Lake" design by Rebecca Shearin. (1) Cap shoulder, 12-or 24-month size, yellow, white, pink or blue, \$4.50; (2) Baseball jersey, toddler, 1-2 or 3-4 size, pink or blue sleeves, \$6.00.



**MONO LAKE BANDANAS.** Red, pink, lilac, light blue, light teal or white. \$3.75.



#### MONO LAKE PATCH.

Striking 5-color design by Rebecca Shearin, 3 inches across, \$2.50.

#### MONO LAKE SLIDE PROGRAM.

(Not shown). 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 loan the program to groups and schools without charge, but ask that a \$35 refundable deposit be sent with each request. The show can also be purchased for \$50, discounted to \$40 for non-profit groups and schools (California residents please add 6% sales tax.) Allow three weeks for delivery.

**MONO LAKE SLIDES.** (Not shown). Set of 24 color transparencies from the Mono Lake slide program. Includes tufa, craters, aerals, brine shrimp, birds, etc. \$10.00.

**BIRDMOBILE AND DINOMOBILE.** Elegant, graceful "gull" or "pterodactyl" mobiles of durable, weatherproof plastic. 32" wingspread. Includes brass hooks for hanging. BirdMobile \$8.95; DinoMobile \$9.95.



#### SAVE MONO SEALS.

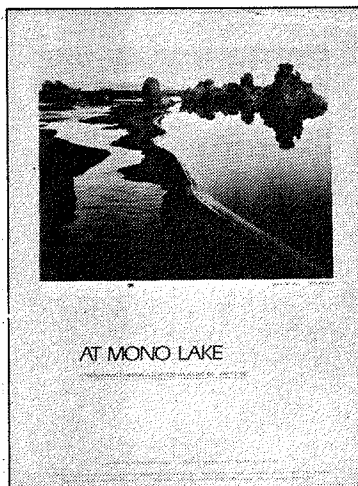
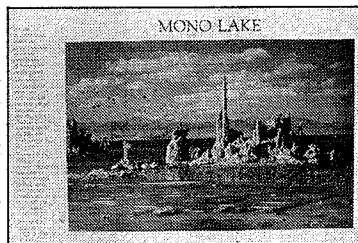
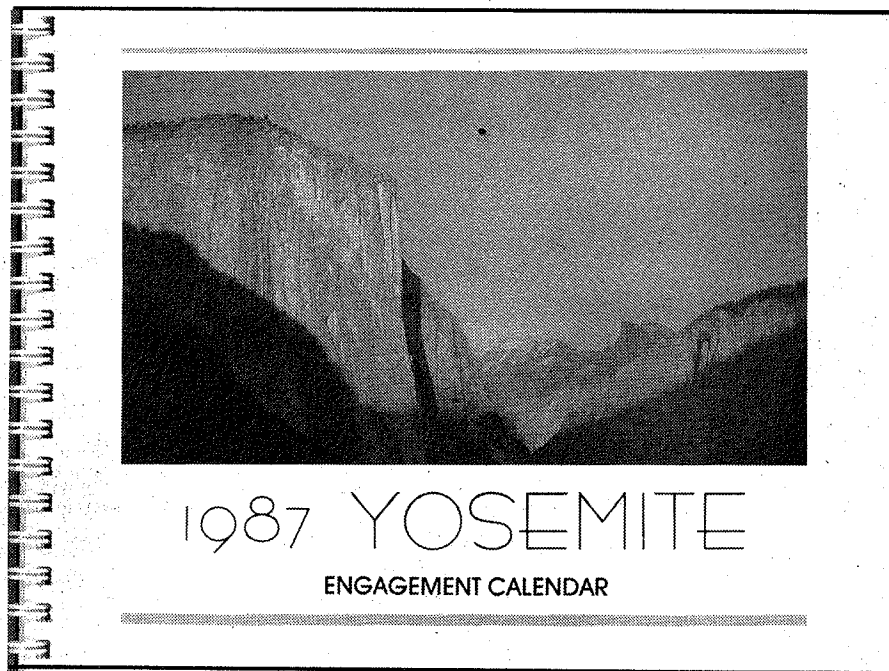
Spread the word! Use these eye-catching blue-on-white self-affixing seals on letters and envelopes. Actual diameter 1-1/2 inches. Designed by Charlotte Cooper. Roll of 50, \$2.50.

**MONO LAKE METAL PIN.** High-quality metal pin, one-inch diameter, engraved with a haunting nocturnal scene in blues, silver and white. Designed by Rebecca Shearin. \$2.00.



**MONO LAKE MATCHBOOKS.** Strike a match for Mono Lake! Each book is adorned with gulls and tufa design and the words "Save Mono Lake." Six books, gift packaged only \$4.7.

# MONO LAKE '87 CATALOG



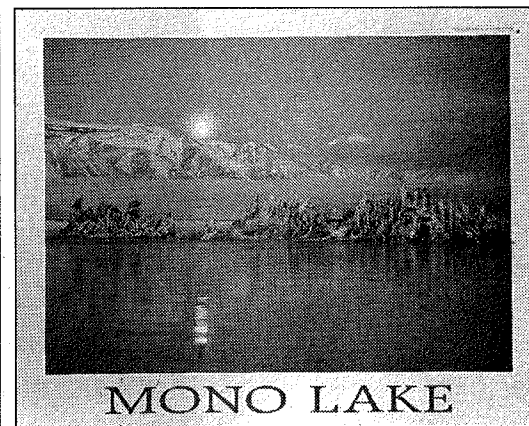
**YOSEMITE ENGAGEMENT CALENDAR.** 30 great color photographs, including Mono Lake. 7" x 9", \$7.95.

**TIM SNYDER POSTER.** A striking 15 x 22-inch color reproduction of shore birds swooping among tufa spires, \$3.95.

**BRETT WESTON POSTER.** Classic 1961 photograph of north shore tufa. This state-of-the-art, laser scan duotone reproduction is printed on 100-lb., varnished cover stock. Black and white, 18 x 24 inches, \$10.00.



**CLOTHBOUND PERSONAL JOURNAL.** (Not pictured). Beautifully bound 6-1/2" x 9-1/2", book with 200 blank white pages and color cover of Mono Lake. \$7.95.

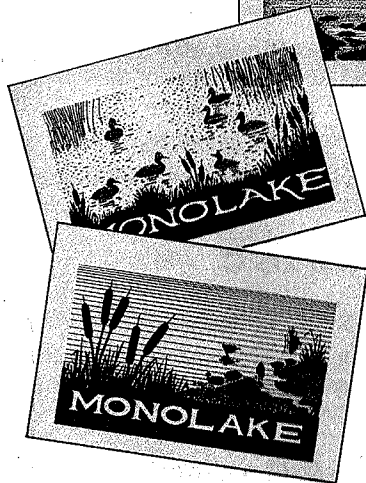


**MOONSET OVER MONO LAKE.** The grandeur of a winter morning, snow-clad Sierra and spires of tufa reflected in Mono's placid water are beautifully reproduced on heavy 100-lb. cover stock. This 16 x 20 inch poster includes Gray Brechin's essay, "Elegy for a Dying Lake," on back. Photo by Anselm Spring, \$4.95.

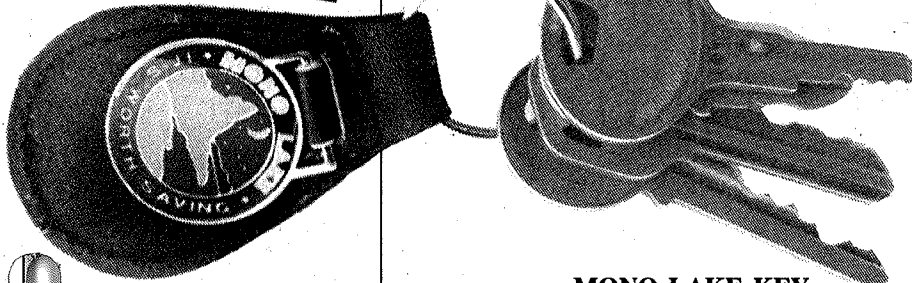
**WATER SAVER SHOWER HEAD.** Finest quality chrome-plated brass shower fixture mixes air and water for truly luxuriant showers. Cuts water consumption by up to 75% and pays for itself in lower water-heating bills. Easy to install. *Standard*, \$9.00; *Deluxe (with turn-off)*, \$13.00.



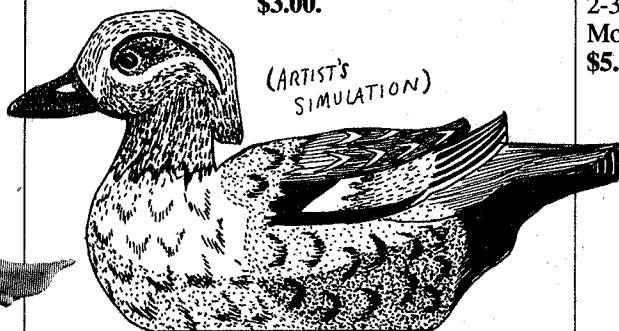
**WILDFLOWERS OF THE SIERRA NEVADA.** Great new color poster by California Native Plant Society depicts 81 native species. 22" x 34" \$7.50.



**THADDEUS EAST NOTECARDS.** Set of 10, five different designs, with envelopes. Black on heavy, cream-colored stock. \$6.95.



**MONO LAKE KEY CHAINS.** High-quality leather with our metal Mono Lake pin, \$3.00.



**DUCK REFRIGERATOR MAGNETS.** Assorted species, let us choose one for you. Painted plastic. \$2.95.

**GULL REFRIGERATOR MAGNETS.** (1) Gull on piling, \$1.00; (2) Mono Lake ceramic gull, \$2.25.

**WATER CONSERVATION KIT.** (Not shown). Conventional flush toilets use 5-8 gallons when 2-3 gallons are sufficient. What can we do about this waste? Use toilet dams. Our conservation kit includes two brass toilet dams guaranteed for five years, as well as a shower head water saver and toilet leak detection tablets. A family of four will save about 20,000 gallons a year! \$3.50.

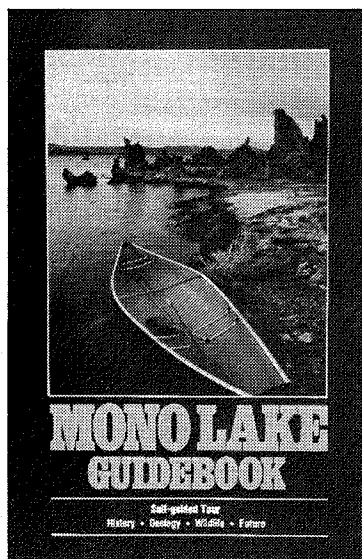


**GULLIVER SEAGULL.** A cuddly reminder of the birds we're fighting to save. We've never seen a more adorable stuffed animal. Ideal for children of all ages- adults, too! \$6.00.

**MONO LAKE RUBBER STAMP.** Large 2-3/4" x 2-1/4" rubber stamp with "Help Save Mono Lake" message. Designed by Mark Warner. \$5.95.



# MONO LAKE '87 CATALOG



## BOOKS

**Mono Lake Guidebook**, 1985 edition. From tufa to volcanoes, brine shrimp to gulls, aqueducts to water conservation, this newly rewritten, authoritative guidebook delves into Mono's geology, wildlife and history, and the alternatives to its destruction. Sixty-eight photographs and numerous drawings, figures and tables complement the 113 pages of text. By David Gaines and the Mono Lake Committee, **\$5.95.**

**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 text. "An outstanding accomplishment"... Huey P. Johnson, former California Secretary for Resources. By Rebecca Shearin, Michael Ross, David Gaines and the Mono Lake Committee, **\$1.95.**

## GREAT BASIN

**Present and Extinct Lakes of Nevada**, by Israel C. Russell. Reprint of 1885 classic by the Great Basin's greatest geologist. 36 pp., paper, **\$2.25.**

**Trace of Desert Waters; The Great Basin Story**, by Samuel G. Houghton. A well researched account of history, geology, archeology and plant & animal life. Recently reprinted with numerous color plates by Philip Hyde. 290 pp., paper, **\$11.95.**

## GEOLOGY

**California Mountain Ranges**, by Russell B. Hill. Stunning color photographs highlight excellent survey. 120 pp., paper, **\$14.95.**

**Geologic Guide to Aspen Valley, Mono Lake, Mono Craters and the Inyo Volcanic Chain, California**, by Scott Stine and others. A field trip that focuses on volcanic ash layers used to trace the prehistoric fluctuations in Mono Lake. 8-1/2" x 11", velobound, 107 pp., paper **\$14.95.**

**Geologic Map of the Mono Craters Quadrangle**, by Ronald W. Kistler. The standard 1966 full-color map of the rocks southwest of Mono Lake. **\$3.60.**

**Bedrock Geologic Map of Yosemite Valley**, by Frank C. Calkins and others. New remake of the classic 1913 map with 7-page explanatory pamphlet by N. King Huber and J. A. Roller. **\$3.10.**

**Earthquakes and Young Volcanoes Along the Eastern Sierra Nevada**, by C. Dean Rinehart and Ward C. Smith. Well-illustrated, up-to-date account by USGU geologists. 62 pp., paper, **\$5.95.**

**Geology of the Great Basin**, by Bill Fiero. An up-to-date description of the rocks and landscapes of this rugged province. A good introduction for the non-geologist. 197 pp., paper, **\$14.50.**

**The Devil's Postpile Story**, by N. King Huber and Wymond W. Eckhardt. New interpretation of the geology of this fascinating National Monument 30 miles south of Mono Lake. 33 pp., paper, **\$1.95.**

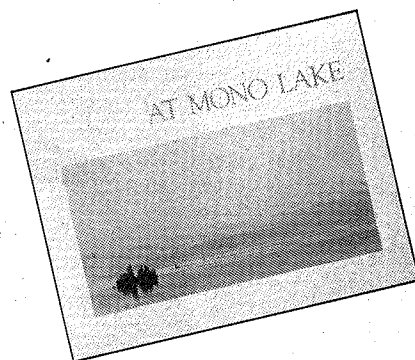
**Roadside Geology of the Eastern Sierra Region**, by the Geologic Society of the Oregon Country. Includes Yosemite, Mono Lake, Devil's Postpile, White Mountains and more. 42 pp., paper, **\$3.50.**

## MONO LAKE

**An Ecological Study of Mono Lake**, ed. by David Winkler. Technical but fascinating information on geology, hydrology and biology. Includes update. 190 pp., paper, **\$9.50.**

**A Trip to Bodie Bluff and the Dead Sea of the West (Mono Lake) in 1863**, by J. Ross Browne. Vivid early account of the Mono Lake region. 77 pp., paper, **\$3.95.**

**The Mono Lake 'Public Trust' Decision of the California Supreme Court, Feb. 17, 1983**, An eloquent, inspiring document destined to become a classic of environmental law. Reprinted by the Mono Lake Committee, **\$3.00 donation appreciated.**



**"AT MONO LAKE" Catalog.** 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, Philip Hyde and many other artists. Edited by Stephen Johnson and published by Friends of the Earth Foundation with the financial assistance of the Mortimer Fleishacker Foundation and Zellerbach Family Fund. Paper; 8-1/2" x 10-1/2". A stunning production! **\$12.95.**

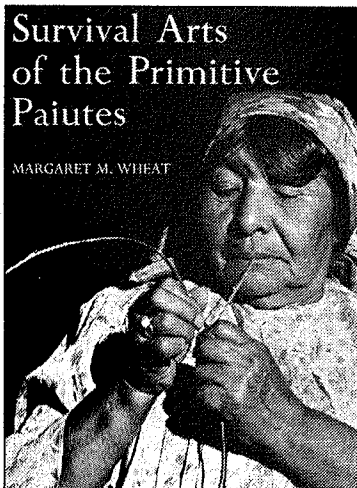
**Quaternary History of the Mono Valley, California**, by Israel C. Russell. Published in 1888, this remains the outstanding study of Mono's geography and geology. Includes all original engravings and topographic maps. 192 pp., paper, **\$9.95.**



## LOS ANGELES AQUEDUCT AND WATER POLITICS

**The Water Seekers**, by Remi A. Nadeau. Drama and intrigue objectively told. Best general account. 278 pp., paper, \$9.95.

**Water and Power**, by William L. Kahrl. The definitive account of L.A.'s water imperialism, detailed and vividly written. 583 pp., paper, \$10.95.



## PLANTS & ANIMALS

**Distributional Checklist to North American Birds**, by David DeSante and Peter Pyle. Most accurate, up-to-date information ever assembled on the status and abundance of birds north of Mexico, with space to keep and enter state and provincial lists. Indispensable to serious birders. 456 pp., hardbound. \$30.00.

**Field Checklist of the Birds of Mono Basin**, by Terry Hart and David Gaines. includes all 259 species with bar graphs. 15 pp., paper, \$.50.

**The Distribution of the Birds of California**, by Joseph Grinnell and Alden Miller. The definitive benchmark. For those seriously interested in California's birds. 617 pp. Hardbound, \$25.00. Paper, \$18.00.

**Discovering Sierra Birds-Western Slope**, by Edward C. Beedy and Stephen L. Granholm. Describes 180 species of Yosemite and Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks. 230 pp. with 41 color plates, paper, \$9.95.

**National Geographic Society Field Guide to the Birds of North America**. Hard to find. One of the best guides to field identification available. 464 pp., paper, \$14.95.

**Mammals of the Mono Lake-Tioga Pass Region**, by John H. Harris. Intimate, authoritative accounts of every species. 55pp., paper, \$3.95.

**Trees of the Great Basin**, by Ronald M. Lanner. A highly readable natural history that focuses on interrelationships between trees, birds, and animals. With 51 color photographs and numerous drawings. 215 pp., paper, \$12.50.

**The Pinyon Pine**, by Ronald M. Lanner. A lucid natural history that relates the pinyon to animals and humans. Includes a section on pinenut cookery. 208 pp., paper, \$8.50.

## HISTORY

**Survival Arts of the Primitive Paiutes**, by Margaret M. Wheat. An intimate, beautiful portrayal illustrated with superb photographs. 117 pp., paper, \$7.50.

**The Pathless Way: John Muir and the American Wilderness**, by Michael P. Cohen. Supurb, powerful new book that traces Muir's spiritual journey and ecological enlightenment. Hardbound, 408 pp. \$25.00.

**Pioneers of the Mono Basin**, by Margaret Calhoun. First-hand history of Mono's early settlers, with 49 historical photos, numerous poems and a wealth of fascinating information. 172 pp., paper, \$6.95.

**The Lost Cement Mine**, by J. W. A. Wright. Tales of legendary gold discovered and lost in the Eastern Sierra of Mono County. First published in the San Francisco Daily Evening Post in 1879. 120 pp., paper, \$7.95.

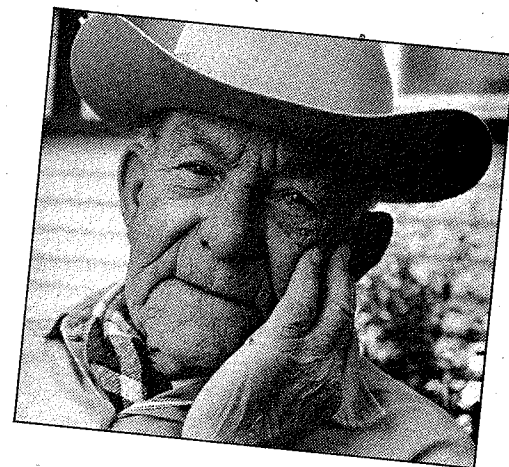
**Roughing It**, by Mark Twain. Includes near-fatal adventures at Mono Lake. 626 pp., paper, \$8.95.

**Up and Down California in 1860-1864**, by William H. Brewer. Classic Californiana, including visit to Mono Lake (he sampled brine shrimp fly soup). 538 pp., paper, \$10.95.

**The Story of Inyo**, by W.A. Chalfant. Bishop newspaperman tells local history from Owens Valley perspective. Reprint of 1925 edition. 430 pp., paper, \$12.50.

**The Story of Bodie**, by Ella M. Cain. Firsthand accounts of life in the West's wildest boom town. 196 pp., paper, \$6.95.

**Man From Mono**, by Lily Mathieu La Braque. This memoir of the La Braque family, as told by George La Braque Sr. to his daughter, Lily, covers half a century of living in the Mono Basin, from 1885 to 1935. George is a superb storyteller, whether narrating a close call on Mono's storm-blown water or the trouble his passion for gambling got him into. 196 pp., paper, \$10.95.





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Sales from this catalogue support the Mono Lake Committee, a 6,000-member, non-profit citizen group. Your purchase, donation or membership will help save Mono Lake, one of America's priceless natural resources.

Won't you join us? Or, if already a member, give a friend a gift membership? We will send your friend an attractive card acknowledging your gift.

All MLC members receive our quarterly newsletter and timely action alerts, which keep them informed of what's happening and how they can help.

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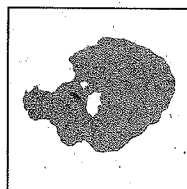
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