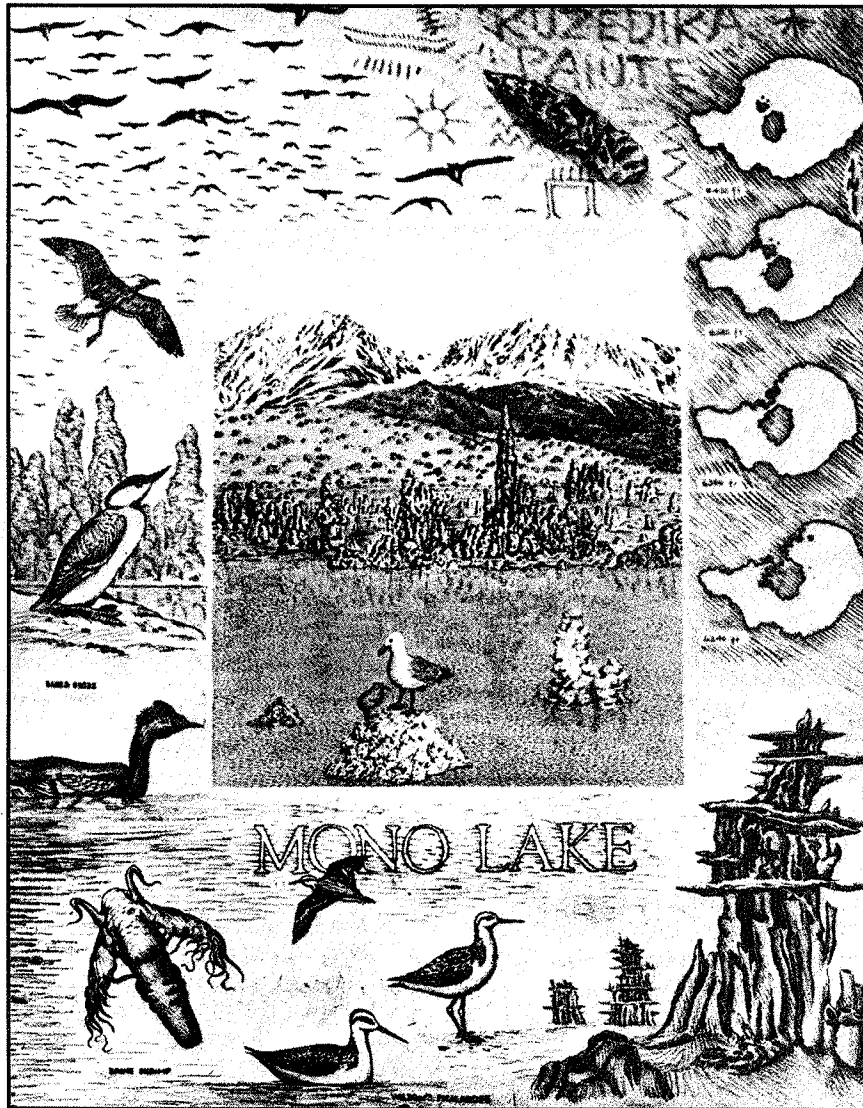


Summer-Fall 1988

Vol. 11, No. 1-2

MONO ^{the} LAKE

NEWSLETTER



Summary of the CORI Report

Take Pride in America Award Given to MLC

Scenic Area Draft Management Plan Released

On the Cover

The beautiful etching on our cover this month was donated by Claus Sievert, a professional artist originally from Germany but now living in San Francisco. Most of his etchings are inspired by the beauty of the Sierra. We were able to thank Claus in person for his wonderful gift at the Mono Lake Bucketwalk. The original etching will soon be hanging in our Visitor Center gallery.

You might have noticed on the cover that this is a combined summer and fall issue of the newsletter. After losing David Gaines this past winter, we were two months behind on our publishing dates, so we decided to skip an issue to catch up. We've gone all out on our 1989 catalog attached to this newsletter. The Gaines kids and their friends are back to model our new line of Mono Lake shirts. Remember, your catalog purchases help us raise funds to preserve our favorite lake. The winter issue will be quite expansive, filled with research updates, special natural history articles and a ten-year retrospective on the Mono Lake Committee. We invite you to send photographs of MLC activities for possible inclusion in this next issue.

Comments Needed on Major Development Proposed Near Mono Lake

At the base of Conway Summit on Hwy. 395, lies Conway Ranch, an old 1000-acre homestead currently used as sheep pasture. The property contains historic buildings, wetlands, prime wildlife habitat, and archeological sites.

The current owners of the ranch plan to convert it to a ranch style resort community, which would include; a lodge, restaurant, shopping center, conference facilities, cottages, condominiums with pools, spas and tennis courts, single family homes, a 30-acre artificial lake, 18-hole golf course, fly-fishing school and equestrian center. Proponents project a total of 690 units with a peak population of 1,655 people, four times the size of the nearest town, Lee Vining.

The Mono Lake Committee is reviewing the draft EIR for the project, with particular attention to potential impacts on Mono Basin water resources and scenic vistas. If you want to comment on this proposed development, write the Mono County Planning Commission, P.O. Box 8, and the Mono County Board of Supervisors, P.O. Box 715, Bridgeport, CA. 93517. For more information on upcoming public hearings, please contact the Planning Commission, (619) 932-7911.

THE MONO LAKE COMMITTEE is a non-profit citizen's 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*, a non-profit, tax-exempt organization dedicated to studying and protecting the Mono Lake watershed. If you wish to make a tax deductible contribution to the effort to save Mono Lake, please write your check to the Mono Lake Foundation.

Scenic Area Draft Management Plan Released

YOUR HELP URGENTLY NEEDED!

At long last, the draft Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the management of the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area will be available for public review on September 20.

THE MOST IMPORTANT ACTION YOU CAN TAKE THIS YEAR FOR MONO LAKE IS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE REVIEW OF THE DRAFT PLAN. The Forest Service will recommend a lake level needed to protect Mono's ecological and aesthetic values as well as identify the management guidelines crucial to the preservation of the natural integrity of the Mono Basin.

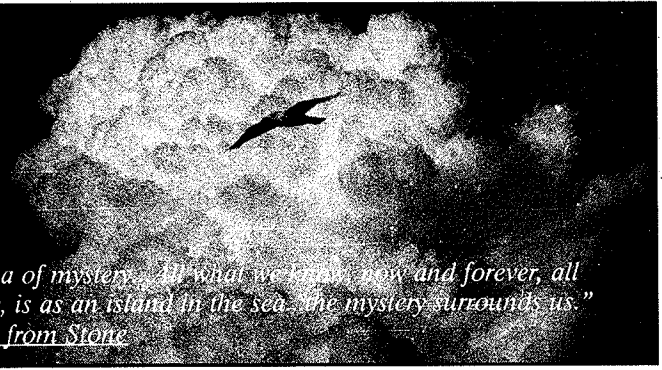
The review period for the plan is 90 days (deadline is December 20). The Forest Service will hold information meetings on the plan in Lee Vining (September 27, 7:30pm, American Legion Hall), Oakland (October 4, 7:30pm, Oakland Convention Center, 550 10th St.), and Monrovia (October 6, 7:30pm, Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel, 700 W. Huntington Dr.). In addition, a special public hearing is slated for December 3, in Lee Vining at the American Legion Hall where public testimony will be taken. For more information and a copy of the plan summary document, contact the Inyo National Forest, 73 North Main Street, Bishop, CA 93514.

The Mono Lake Committee will review and publish a critique of the Scenic Area plan and recommended lake level. If you would like to receive a copy of our comments, please write Ilene at our Lee Vining office.

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Saunters by Mono Lake



*"I have a friend who speaks of knowledge as an island in a sea of mystery. All that we know now and forever, all scientific knowledge that we have of this world, or ever will have, is as an island in the sea—the mystery surrounds us."
Chet Raymo, Honey from Stone*

Shooting stars seem to be raining down on Mono Lake. Out of the perfect blackness of a summer sky, the meteors stream, sizzling through the atmosphere in curious silence. Some of the meteors come so close to our planet that they burn far brighter than the stars. These fireballs trace luminous arcs of light across the apex of the night. The lake mirrors the show, blurring the edge between the heavens and earth.

Although the fireballs provide the spectacle, I find myself entranced by those faint meteors, barely perceptible, that shoot from horizon to horizon. Watching those dim lights speeding past on their way to realms unknown and unknowable enables me to visualize "mystery" that great sea at once surrounding, and permeating our beautiful planet.

How is it that Mono Lake and its circle of peaks and valleys so often evokes such feelings of wonder and amazement? Perhaps it is the vast stillness of the landscape that quiets us and focuses our attention on things truly worth knowing.

In looking over scientific studies such as the recently released CORI report, I am always struck by what we don't know about the lake. I find that the scientific analysis describes well the parameters of our island of knowledge and makes me all the more aware of the mysterious sea surrounding that small island. As David Gaines wrote after reviewing the National Academy of Sciences report last year, "I thirsted for more than 'unbiased scientific analysis.' I longed for the power and passion of the living lake."

The CORI report identifies key lake levels for managing Mono, levels based on what we know of the ecosystem. But what about the mystery, beauty and unpre-

dictability of a place when it is those very qualities, among others, that fascinate us? Don't we need to be awed, amazed and even perplexed at times? I wonder how to talk about such qualities in management terms. Mystery just isn't quantifiable.

The question of how to manage Mono Lake is the focus of the draft Mono Basin Scenic Area Management Plan, to be released by the Inyo National Forest in late September. The plan will depend heavily on scientific reports to justify its lake level recommendations. Dave's comments from last year are apt, "To complete the picture, we need to integrate the scientists' left-brained analysis with our own intuitive sensitivity to the beauty and integrity of the Mono Lake landscape. We need to see the lake with our hearts as well as our minds..."

The Forest Service needs to hear from all of us how we *feel* about Mono Lake. What is it about the lake that we value for aesthetic or spiritual reasons? It's up to us, the public, to give voice to those concerns which a scientific report does not address. For the most part, you and I are the only "researchers" involved in non-analytical studies at Mono Lake.

In Chinese landscape painting there is a phrase used to describe part of a picture which is purposely left blank. They call it "leaving space for the bird to fly." The artist recognizes the need to represent the unknown in the natural world and give it space to be itself, unpredictable, free. I hope we can find ways to articulate a similar sentiment in our vision of Mono Lake's future. May we always have a special place in which to imagine the destination of a shooting star.

Lauren Davis

CORI STUDY: A Summary

"Serious consequences to the [Mono] lake ecosystem will occur in the near future [1989] if the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power continues to export Mono Basin water in amounts similar to those that have been exported for the last three decades," according to *The Future of Mono Lake*, a report recently released by the Community and Organization Research Institute (CORI) (p.22). CORI, a nonprofit group associated with U.C. Santa Barbara, selected a panel of experts who analyzed both existing data and special studies (see box).

Studies Commissioned By CORI

Dr. Thomas A. Cahill, Air Quality Group, Crocker Nuclear Laboratory, University of California, Davis (Air Quality at Mono Lake)

Dr. Joseph R. Jehl, Jr., Hubbs Marine Research Institute, San Diego, (Caspian Terns, Phalaropes, and Grebes of Mono Lake)

Dr. John M. Melack, University of California, Santa Barbara (Limnological Conditions at Mono Lake)

Dr. Scott Stine, Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory, Columbia University (Geomorphic and Geohydrographic Aspects of the Mono Lake Controversy)

Dr. David W. Winkler, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y. (California Gull and Snowy Plover Populations of Mono Lake)

The report, commissioned by the State Legislature, contains synopses of these studies as well as a summary of the panel's conclusions.

The CORI study echoes last year's National Academy of Sciences (NAS) report, which confirmed that DWP's water diversions have brought Mono Lake's ecosystem to the brink of major decline and collapse, a position long held by the Mono Lake Committee. *The Future of Mono Lake* comes to even more specific conclusions regarding the consequences of continuing water exports and identifies "key lake levels" at which the lake can be managed. The report suggests a lake level of 6,382 feet, to protect the lake ecosystem, its wetlands, tufa towers and islands.

The Future of Mono Lake also underscores the urgency of the situation. It forecasts serious degradation by next year (1989) when increasing salinity will harm algae, brine shrimp and brine fly growth and lead to a general "decline in the status of the lake ecosystem" (p. 12).

Unfortunately, the report virtually ignores the decline in ecosystem quality which has already occurred since diversions began in 1941, lowering the lake as much as 45 feet. These changes include dust storms, a decline in waterfowl numbers (MLC Guidebook, p. 90), stream devastation and a decline in brine fly populations (ibid).

Unlike the NAS group, which was directed to focus primarily on scientific issues, the CORI panel looked at the aesthetic values of Mono Lake. CORI scientists concluded that the "loss of the lake as a living ecosystem would be a loss to the people of the state of California, the West and the nation" (p. 18). Following is a brief summary of the major conclusions reached in the CORI report.

ALGAE: Mono Lake's abundant algae feeds both brine shrimp and brine flies, forming the basis of the food chain. At an elevation of 6375 feet (1989), the "abundance of certain algae starts to decline" (p.12).

BRINE SHRIMP: CORI recognizes the direct relationship between salinity levels and brine shrimp hatching success. Growth of brine shrimp declines at 6375 feet (1989) and shrimp hatching is reduced by 50% at around 6363 feet (p.12-13). The shrimp could disappear altogether around 6355 feet (Appendix A.1).

BRINE FLIES: High salinities are lethal to brine flies. Brine fly growth would decline at a lake level of 6375 feet (1989) (p. 12). As the lake declines, the habitat for the brine fly larvae also decreases which could lead to a "significant decrease in the population of brine flies." (p.12).

BIRDS IN GENERAL: The NAS report suggested that if the Mono Lake ecosystem collapses, migrating birds might find alternative lakes for feeding. The CORI report, however, states that "in the absence of firm evidence to the contrary, it is unwarranted to assume that they will relocate successfully" (p. 15). In addition, a loss of Mono's birds "would have an obvious negative impact on the scenic and aesthetic aspects of the lake, aspects that clearly have been valued by many people" (p. 15).

CALIFORNIA GULLS: The report states, "gull reproduction will be reduced through losses of suitable habitat, which would accompany land bridging of Negit Island [1989] and Java and Twain islets to the mainland"

(p.15). Although new islets will be exposed as the lake drops, most will not provide preferred habitat. The report also states that "a severe reduction in the abundance of the brine shrimp and brine flies will adversely affect California gulls..." (p.15).

EARED GREBES: Mono Lake is critical to Eared Grebes because it provides "a reasonably reliable, super-abundant food source and molt/fattening area when conditions elsewhere are poor." The lake supports about 750,000 individuals, 30% of the world's population (p. 7).

WILSON'S AND RED-NECKED PHALAROPES: Mono Lake is a "major molt/fattening area" for about 80,000 Wilson's Phalaropes (10% of the world population of adults), and about 60,000 Red-necked Phalaropes (2-3% of the world population.) CORI concludes that "any disruption in their ability to accumulate sufficient fat reserves at Mono Lake would, therefore, lead to a fundamental change in their migratory patterns, with associated changes in mortality risks" (p.7-8).

SNOWY PLOVERS: "...Mono Lake is an important breeding area for Snowy Plovers...(the bird is) in a degree of jeopardy everywhere in its interior range" (Appendix B.9). Approximately 11% of California's population breeds at Mono Lake (p.17). CORI predicts that as the lake level drops, the plovers' feeding and watering areas will become too widely separated from their nesting habitat, further endangering their productivity.

STREAM-SIDE VEGETATION: CORI differs with the NAS claim that the court-ordered releases into Rush (19 cfs) and Lee Vining (10 cfs: at that time) creeks "would reestablish riparian conditions that existed prior to 1941." Not so, says CORI, "these releases represent about 1/5 to 1/10 of the pre-1941 average stream-flow" and "only a small volume of the water released is available to riparian vegetation," since much of this water sinks into the ground before it reaches the lake (p.17).

AIR QUALITY: At a lake elevation of 6380, total suspended particulates (including arsenic and sulfate) from dust blowing off Mono Lake's exposed shoreline exceed state air quality standards 11% of the year (p.9). (The lake has already dropped to 6378 feet.) The report states that "further declines in lake level will lead to further air quality degradation" (p.14).

"NICK POINT": Below a lake level of 6368 feet, the lakeshore gradient becomes much steeper. If Mono Lake reaches this "nick point," all streams and rills draining into the lake would incise, eroding their beds and creating deep gullies. The "erosion of tufa towers, marshlands, and stream beds (will be) irreversible" (p. 19). If diversions continue unchanged, the nick point would appear around the year 1994 (p. 13).

KEY LAKE LEVELS: The CORI study analyzes three management scenarios which incorporate lake levels ranging from a high elevation of 6,382 to a low of 6,362. Each option, listed below, includes a 10 to 14 foot buffer zone.

Option 1.....6,382 feet
According to the report, a buffer level of 6382 feet would protect "all key aspects of the lake and its designated national recreational area" including the major species of birds using the lake, the tufa towers, existing

Wetlands and the lake ecosystem with its brine flies and shrimp (p.19). The buffer level prevents the lake from dropping below the "nick point" even during severe droughts, although it allows the landbridge to extend to the primary gull nesting islands and the ecosystem to drastically decline. The lake is currently four feet below the 6,382 elevation.

Option II 6,372 feet

The report states that "a buffer level of 6372 feet sacrifices substantial portions of gull habitat, endangers... tufa towers, threatens much existing wetland...and adversely affects the breeding biology of plovers" (p.20).

Option III 6,362 feet

"This level is extremely dangerous for the lake ecosystem; major reductions in the production of brine shrimp and brine flies would occur as the lake varied with climate between 6362 and 6352 feet" (p. 20). The panel predicts that few gulls would nest due to lack of suitable habitat, and that lack of food would make the lake an unreliable migratory stopover. Grebe and phalarope numbers would also be "severely reduced" (p. 20).

LAKE LEVEL 6352 – ECOSYSTEM COLLAPSE:

The report states that "the existing lake ecosystem could cease to function by [the year] 2012 when lake salinities reach levels at which brine shrimp and brine flies could no longer survive, thus depriving most breeding and migratory bird species of their food source at the lake." (p. ix) CORI assumes diversion rates of 90,000 acre feet/year (af/y), although they currently average 100,000 af/y.

WHAT NEXT?

Both the CORI and NAS reports mention the need for additional research. Yet, after nearly a decade and a half of intensive research, it is clear that Mono Lake ecosystem is in serious decline and will collapse, if diversions continue unchanged. With the reports in hand, there is now enough evidence for the responsible agencies and policy makers to step in and save Mono Lake.

Option I, with its lake level of 6382 feet, would help preserve Mono Lake's aquatic life and birds, tree-lined streams and tufa towers. Still, the Mono Lake Committee holds that 6388, with a ten foot "buffer", is the lake level needed to protect Mono Lake. Any lower level would allow the lake to drop below 6378 and suffer serious consequences during a prolonged drought.

Under either scenario, Mono Lake's protection would require a "reduction of 10% in the water supply presently available to the City of Los Angeles" (p. xi). Coincidentally, this is the same amount which the city must conserve as part of their conservation ordinance (see MLC newsletter, Spring 1988).

The time to save Mono Lake is now – not ten years from now when clouds of alkali dust have replaced flocks of phalaropes.

Emilie Strauss, Ilene Mandelbaum and Lauren Davis

Copies of the NAS report, THE MONO BASIN ECOSYSTEM: Effects of Changing Lake Level, and the CORI report, THE FUTURE OF MONO LAKE are available from MLC in our attached catalog.

Legal Update: DWP's Licenses Revoked

On May 23, the Third District Court of Appeals ruled that the licenses held by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power to divert water from Mono Basin streams are illegal. The decision requires the State Water Resources Control Board to revoke DWP's licenses and re-issue them in compliance with state law, which protects fish below dams. This means that L.A.'s water exports from the basin must be reduced to maintain flows for fish populations in the four streams it diverts: Rush, Lee Vining, Parker and Walker creeks.

The ruling could force Los Angeles to give up at least 50,000 acre-feet of water each year. According to Martha Davis, MLC executive director, "It's not a big step from there to the 70,000 acre-feet of water that Mono Lake needs to remain healthy."

The ruling is based on a law passed by the legislature in 1953 (Section 5946 of the Fish and Game codes) that requires anyone obtaining a water diversion permit or license in Mono or Inyo counties to maintain fish-sustaining flows below a dam. DWP has consistently violated this law, desiccating miles of formerly green and luxuriant stream courses and devastating popular fisheries.

According to the court decision, "To allow the successful evasion of the law in the past to sanctify illegality in the future would only vindicate the arrogance with which that evasion has been asserted here. Even worse, it would allow DWP to continue its destruction of the fisheries in the Mono Basin streams – a resource which the Legislature sought to protect for all Californians by its enactment of section 5946."

Although the court granted DWP a re-hearing on the decision due to some questions regarding the courts math, MLC is confident the outcome will be the same.

Lauren Davis and Ilene Mandelbaum

Mono Groundwater Ordinance

In early May the Mono County Board of Supervisors passed an emergency ordinance to control the export of groundwater out of the basin of origin. The county is under pressure to come up with a policy that safeguards local use of groundwater. The issue became clear when a county rancher revealed a controversial proposal to grow more water-efficient crops and sell the resulting "surplus" groundwater to Castaic Lake Water Agency in southern California.

The county has sponsored a series of public workshops to aid in drafting a permanent ordinance that would regulate out-of-basin exports through a permitting process. The MLC is in full support of the county's action to protect its remaining water resources.

Lauren Davis and Ilene Mandelbaum

Point Reyes Bird Observatory Research: Mono Lake & Beyond

A Close-Focus and Wide-Angle View

Susan Claire Peaslee

Point Reyes Bird Observatory (PRBO) is a non-profit research and educational organization located on the coast north of the San Francisco Bay. PRBO has been a major supporter of the Mono Lake Committee since the Committee's beginning ten years ago. The two organizations cooperate on many projects, such as the Bird-a-thon, which is a primary fund-raiser for both. For more information on how you can become involved, see the box below.

Birds are indicators of the well-being of complex natural systems to which they—and we—belong. Because they are high-level consumers in many food webs, birds are sensitive barometers of change in the environment. They are also highly visible, making them prime objects of study for ecologists. These are some of the reasons the Point Reyes Bird Observatory was created as a research facility nearly 25 years ago.

Monitoring the environmental health of Mono Lake has long been a focus of PRBO research. The Observatory's work at the lake began during the 1970's with studies of Mono's avian species. For the past six years we have recorded the reproductive success of the California gulls on Negit Island and nearby small islets. From our base camp on Krakatoa Islet we determine the size of the adult population (by counting nests on all the islands), and we assess the gulls' productivity (by a combination of chick counts, sample plots, and carcass counts).

In addition, we keep close watch on the shifting location of the gulls' breeding attempts. Negit Island, once the largest colony, was abandoned by the gulls in 1979 when coyotes raided the nests after crossing a landbridge exposed by the receding water. Heavy snow-melt from the 1983 and '84 winters flooded the landbridge, and by this year, over 2,000 pairs are again using Negit Island. The landbridge to Negit and Twain islands could reappear late next year, jeopardizing 25,000 breeding birds.

Additional PRBO research at Mono Lake has focused on the Snowy Plover, both its breeding biology and its population status. In 1978, we completed the first survey of the plover's breeding population in the dry and alkali lakes from the Salton Sea to the Oregon border. This year, we repeated that survey in order to update the census data, for the species' status west of the Rockies has become cause for concern. Results of our 1988 survey will help us assess the health of the Snowy Plover population.

Scientific curiosity about birds often begins with regional considerations like the ones sketched above.

Snowy Plover



Point Reyes Bird Observatory

Later a naturalist or ecologist may develop questions about the well-being of larger populations. The spectacle of phalaropes, grebes, and shorebirds at Mono Lake, staging for their long migrations, is one almost certain to prompt global considerations of the natural world. Through our studies of diverse ecosystems, PRBO has developed a broad interest in how certain key sites support the shorebirds of North America that migrate in the Pacific Flyway.

An comprehensive new project at PRBO is the documentation of the importance of West Coast wetlands to shorebirds. Intensive work on San Francisco Bay began this spring. On April 16-18, with the help of 183 volunteers, we conducted the first census of all the shorebirds in the Bay. Some 838,000 birds were distributed in varying densities around its shores. At the peak of spring migration, we estimate that the total could easily reach one million shorebirds, clearly ranking San Francisco Bay among the key westcoast staging grounds in the Pacific Flyway.

PRBO's San Francisco Bay Project continues this fall with a second all-Bay census. The skilled volunteers who participate in this rigorous field work are essential to PRBO's research activities. In the coming years, our Pacific Flyway work will be critical in the efforts to understand—and protect—natural systems throughout the West.

1988 Bird-a-Thon in David Gaines' Honor

Few things gave David Gaines more pleasure than leading the eastern Sierra bird count for the yearly Bird-a-Thon. It is hard to imagine the Bird-a-Thon without Dave being there to lead the eastern Sierra contingent of counters. A special group of friends will gather on September 24 to carry on the tradition in Dave's spirit.

Helen Green, MLC board member and eagle-eye birder, will lead a caravan of eager counters on Dave's customary route from the Bishop sloughs, north to Mono Lake. The caravan hopes to match Dave's record of 122 species in a day.

Please join us in continuing this special tradition by sponsoring Helen's intrepid group. Your tax-deductible contribution will support both the Mono Lake Committee and the Point Reyes Bird Observatory. The envelope included in this newsletter can be used to pledge your sponsorship until October 30.

Mono Lake News In Brief

Mono Basin Air Reclassified

The Environmental Protection Agency has reclassified the Mono Basin from Group III, which is one considered to be in compliance with federal air standards, to Group II, which includes areas that may not be in compliance and so merit further study. The landbridge near Negit Island is a major source of dust storms, and led to one recorded violation this spring. Congressman Lehman's efforts on this issue are greatly appreciated.

Scenic Area Visitor Center Receives Funding

The Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area Visitor Center has been allocated \$4.3 million by the U.S. House and Senate thanks to Congressman Lehman and Senator Cranston. "If all goes well, the doors would open in summer 1990," Nancy Upham, manager of the Scenic Area, said. Construction is slated to begin next spring on a bluff northeast of the Lee Vining high school.

EDF and the Mono Lake Group Visit Mono

Members of the Mono Lake Group and Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) toured Mono Lake and LA aqueduct facilities in mid-July. The Group consists of representatives from the Mono Lake Committee (MLC), the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP), Mono County, Inyo National Forest, the California Water Resources Agency, and the Los Angeles mayor's office and City Council. MLC and DWP have hired EDF to identify and assess alternative water and energy sources which LA could tap in lieu of diverting Mono's tributary streams. The study will continue through the fall.

Radioactivity Found in Mono Lake's Past

Abnormally high concentrations of radiocarbon (C-14) have diffused through Mono lake in the past, according to a recent study by Wallace Broecker. Broecker, a noted geologist from the Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory speculates that the radiocarbon influx may be a result of clandestine nuclear waste disposal. Other geologists, however, are skeptical of this theory, but have yet to produce an alternative explanation. The radioactivity is low-level and poses no threat to human health. The research into radioactivity at the lake will continue this fall.

Lake Level Falls 1.5 Feet

By September, Mono Lake had fallen to 6377.6 feet, down from 6379.2 a year ago. The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power has continued to divert all the water from Mono's tributary streams that it legally can. The court-ordered flows in Rush Creek do make it to the lake, while Lee Vining Creek seeps into the ground before reaching the shoreline.

MLC NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

MLC Honored by Reagan

On July 25, the Mono Lake Committee received a "Take Pride in America" award from President Reagan in a White House ceremony honoring conservation groups for "outstanding public stewardship." As one of 94 award recipients throughout the country, MLC was recognized for its efforts to protect Mono Lake.

The Committee also received praise from Governor George Deukmejian. "Your dedicated efforts," said the Governor, "have helped to make the Golden State an even better place in which to live, and have earned the widespread respect and gratitude of all her citizens."



MLC Executive Director Martha Davis and Co-Chair Ed Grosswiler, accepting the "Take Pride in America" award.

Staff Hellos

Amber Rae has joined our Los Angeles office as Development Coordinator. Amber comes to us from Phoenix, Arizona. She is an actress, who's "committed to the earth, our life-source." Jennifer Mandel is also working in LA as Temporary Staff. She is a full-time student in recording engineering at Cal State, Dominguez Hills.

MLC Job Openings

LEE VINING: Staff Assistant/Store Clerk

We are currently hiring for this position. If you're interested, please call Melanie to find out about job status.

LEE VINING: Educational Programs Coordinator

We are still looking for someone to run our interpretive and educational outreach programs. We need a creative, well-organized person with interpretive, writing and supervisory skills who loves Mono Lake! This position

is full-time, with a salary range of \$1,100-1,400, plus benefits. For a more in-depth description of the position, see our spring newsletter. Please send resumes and references to Ilene Mandelbaum as soon as possible. For more information, call (619) 647-6386.

Photographs Needed

The Mono Lake Coalition will publish a 1990 Mono Lake Calendar. Color photographs of the highest caliber which capture the spirit of Mono Lake and nearby environs are requested. For more information on suggested subject matter and submission requirements, please contact: Mike Hamilton, P.O. Box 60036, Palo Alto, CA, 94306, (415) 853-0197. The deadline is November 15, 1988.

Help Needed with Marketing 1989 Calendars

The Coalition printed 2,000 additional calendars for 1989 and hope to increase sales to retail stores, clubs and businesses. Wholesale discounts for orders of 6 or more, and a 10% commission—in cash or calendars—will be provided. If you can help, please contact: Mono Lake Coalition, c/o Sierra Bay Chapter, 6014 College Ave., Oakland, CA. 94618, (415) 547-5755.

Accolades

A special thank you goes to **Paul Wulf** and the new **Orvis** store at 300 Grant Ave. in San Francisco for adding a fly-fishing rod to join the reel they previously donated for our Mono Lake drawing. Thanks also to **Designs Unlimited** of Mammoth Lakes for bringing our Mono Lake t-shirts into the '80's with a new, eye-catching designs. These generous folks have donated artwork, silk-screens and delivery. We're grateful to **Bob Roney** for fixing our slide show tape, **Helen Green** for the gift of a tripod, **Sally Gaines** for giving us a Bushnell spotting scope, **Dorothy Robertson** for donating a bookcase, **Virginia Elliot** and **Charlie and Carolyn Davis** for used books to sell, **Dick Branch** and **Herbert Rolff** for the camera collection, **Rebecca Sherin** for her magical drawing for our Tenth Anniversary Flyer, **Erfert Fenton** for donating a papercutter to the LA office, and **Greg Mushial** for custom computer software. Thanks to **Charlie Davis** and **Linda Brown** for hauling of recycled beverage containers to Bishop. We can't thank **Greg Esgate** enough for helping us re-design our downstairs office in Lee Vining and to **Stacy** in the LA office for donating lots of overtime to this project. A belated thank-you to **Pete Smith** for his help with last year's Bike-a-thon. Thanks also to the **Eastern Sierra Audubon** for assisting with the expansion of the boardwalk at the county park at Mono Lake.

Grants

MLC extends it thanks to the **Strong Foundation for Environmental Values** for a generous grant to support our hydrological research. We're grateful to the **Los Angeles Audubon chapter** for their contribution to our legal fund. Thanks also to **Yvon Chouinard** and everyone at **Patagonia, Inc.** for their gift to our general fund. We appreciate **Yosemite Park and Curry Company's** contribution which will enable us to publish our Tenth Anniversary Report which will be available this fall.

In Memory

Thank you to **Susan H. Bailey, William and Marjorie Watt,** and **Katherine H. Holbrook** for donations in memory of **Bradley K. Holbrook** of Inverness, **Gladys Millner** for a contribution in memory of **James Keller,** and **Virginia Elliot** for a contribution in memory of **Marge Hellbron.**

Mono Lake Visitor Center Fund

We greatly appreciate all of you who have contributed to our Visitor Center fund in memory of David Gaines and Don Oberlin. We have raised nearly \$50,000 which is more than half way to our goal. We hope to purchase the building this fall.

THE MONO LAKE COMMITTEE

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Helen Green Secretary

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Ilene Mandelbaum Eastern Sierra Representative
Emilie Strauss Staff Biologist
Everett King, Steve Holland, Richard Potashin, Jennifer Scholz,
Courtney Smith, Shannon Nelson Interns
George Larimore and Elizabeth Le Bouc Volunteers

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Stacy Brown Business Manager
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Amber Rae Development Co-ordinator

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Mono Lake Internships

Interns work full time staffing our Lee Vining information center, answering mail, filing and researching. We need an intern for the winter-spring (January-April). MLC can provide housing and a small stipend. For more information, please contact Ilene Mandelbaum in Lee Vining.

MONO LAKE CATALOG '89

T-shirts,
Posters,
Calendars,
Books and
More!

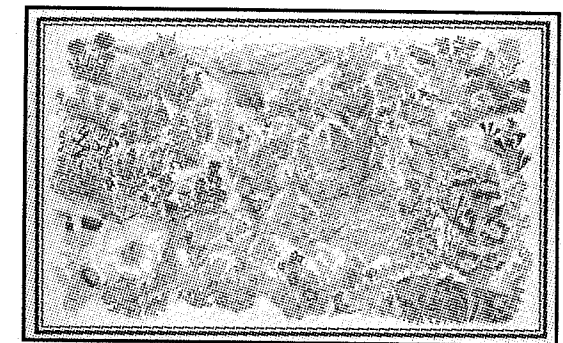
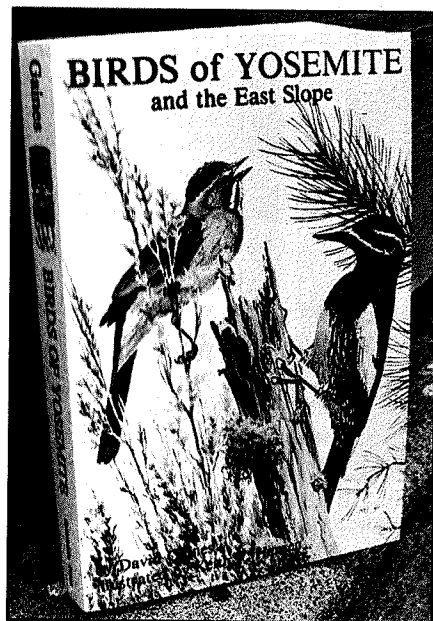


MONO LAKE
1 9 8 9

Mono Lake Calendar
Dedicated to David
Gaines, this year's
calendar portrays the
majesty and moods of
the Mono Basin
through beautiful color
photographs. **\$8.95**
Special discounts for
volume purchases: buy
2-5, pay only \$7.95
each; buy 6-10, pay
\$6.95 each; buy 11 or
more, pay only \$5.95
each.

Thanks to Brian Day and
Kimberley Fisher for photos
and design ideas for this
catalog.

NEW!



**Sierra Nevada Rocky Places Wildflower
Poster** Vivid, full-color, 25 by 35 inch poster
illustrates 60 Sierra wildflowers with marmots,
lizards, and other critters hiding in the
greenery. **\$7.95**



**Mono Lake
Rubber Stamp**
Easy to use and
helps get the
message out.
Stamp on the
outside of your
water bills! Design
donated by Mark
Warner of Wild
Bryde Jewelry.
Actual size: 1 1/4".
\$4.95

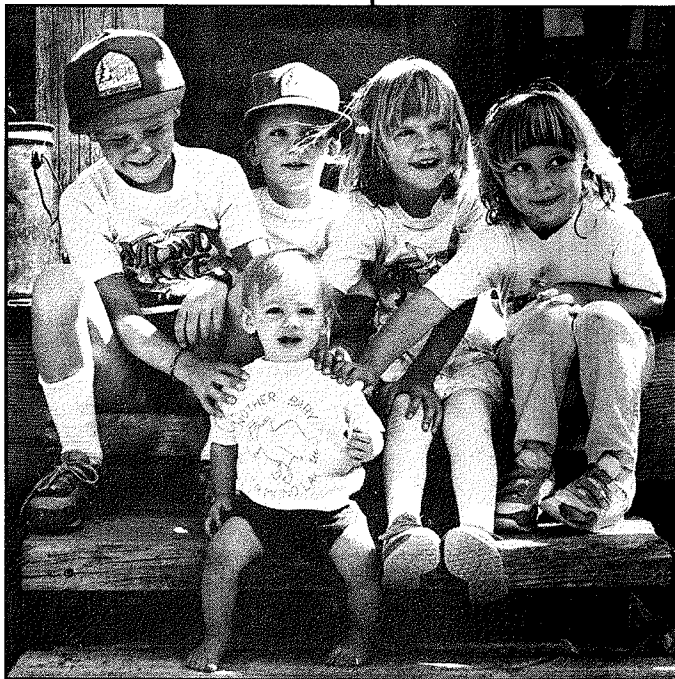
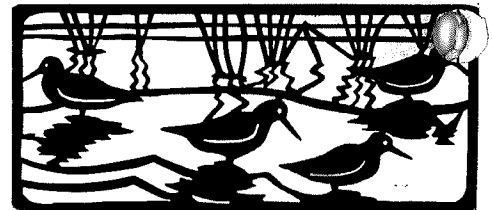
**Birds of Yosemite and the East Slope, by
David Gaines.** This was Dave's last book,
completed only a month before his death.
Keith Hansen's cover painting and drawings
are the perfect touch to Dave's glowing prose
about the birds he loved so well. Even if
you're not a serious birdwatcher, the amusing
anecdotes and attentive natural history will
cultivate your interest in the lives of the
Sierra's winged denizens. **\$16.50**

MONO LAKE CATALOG '89



Mono Lake "It's Worth Saving" T-Shirts and Sweatshirts The newly revised Mono Lake t-shirt is in and we love it. Short-sleeved, 100% cotton, adults crew in silver, aqua, mint, peach, pink, and light blue, sizes S,M,L,XL, (above) \$9.95. Short-sleeved, 100% cotton, kid's crew in pink and aqua, sizes S,M, (below) \$7.50. Sweatshirt in turquoise and silver, sizes S,M,L,XL, (right) \$17.95

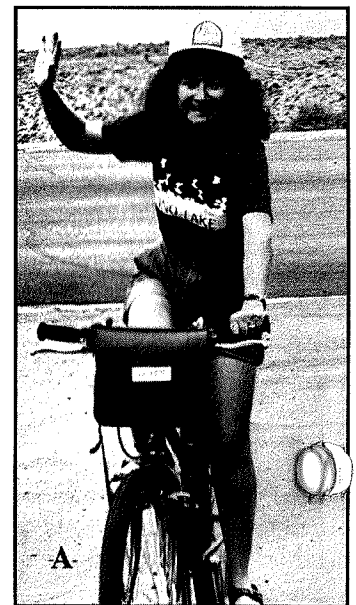
New! 



Toddler T-Shirts. "Another Baby for Mono Lake" design by Rebecca Shearin. Available in pink and blue, sizes 12 and 24 mos. in a 50/50 poly/cotton blend. \$5.95

Mono Lake Pin
Delicate shorebird design, hand cut in silver or gold plate, by Wild Bryde Jewelry. Shown actual size. Please specify gold or silver when ordering. \$24.00

Mono Lake Honey Enjoy the fruits of the Mono Basin's flower display with a 1 lb. jar of wildflower honey. \$4.50

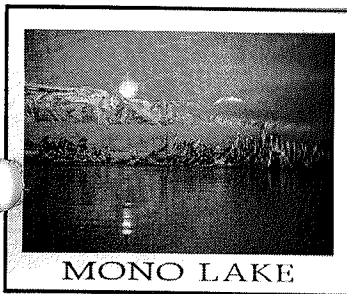




Mono Lake Caps and Visors Adorn your pate with attractive, quality headgear. Sizes are adjustable, and fit everyone we know. Canvas caps come in forest green, red, navy, gray, and tan. \$7.50. Corduroy caps are available in navy, red, purple, gray and royal blue. \$8.50 Visors say "Mono Lake" in white on yellow, teal, blue, pink, lavender, purple, and aqua. \$4.50
Mono Lake Patch As seen on our hats, striking 5-color design by Rebecca Shearin, 3 inches across. \$2.95



Wildflower T-Shirt This beautiful Sierra wildflower t-shirt is available in a 100% cotton, short-sleeved crew, sizes S,M,L,XL, in white and aqua. \$9.95



 **NEW!**



Moonset Over Mono Lake The grandeur of a winter morning is beautifully reproduced on heavy 100 lb. cover stock. Gray Brechin's essay, "Elegy for a Dying Lake" is printed on the back. Photo by Anselm Spring. \$4.95

Mono Lake Enamel Pin
 Engraved with Rebecca Shearin's haunting, nocturnal scene in blues, silver and white. Shown actual size. \$1.95



Auto Shades Produced by the San Francisco based "Save the Wetlands" group, this colorfully printed shade keeps your car cool and prolongs the life of your dash and upholstery. Folds to 5-1/2" by 20-1/2" Fits all passenger cars. \$7.50



Mono Lake Shorebird T-Shirts (A) The classic Mono Lake shorebird design, 100% cotton in black, turquoise, coral, and lavender (50-50 blend). \$9.95

Mono Lake Shorebird Aprons (B) Same design on a full-length apron with two front pockets. White design on royal blue. \$16.95

Toddler Shorebird Sweats (C) Matching sweatshirt and sweatpants in a 50-50 poly/cotton blend. Sizes 12 or 24 months, pink or blue. \$18.95

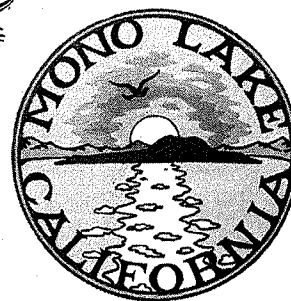


MONO LAKE CATALOG '89

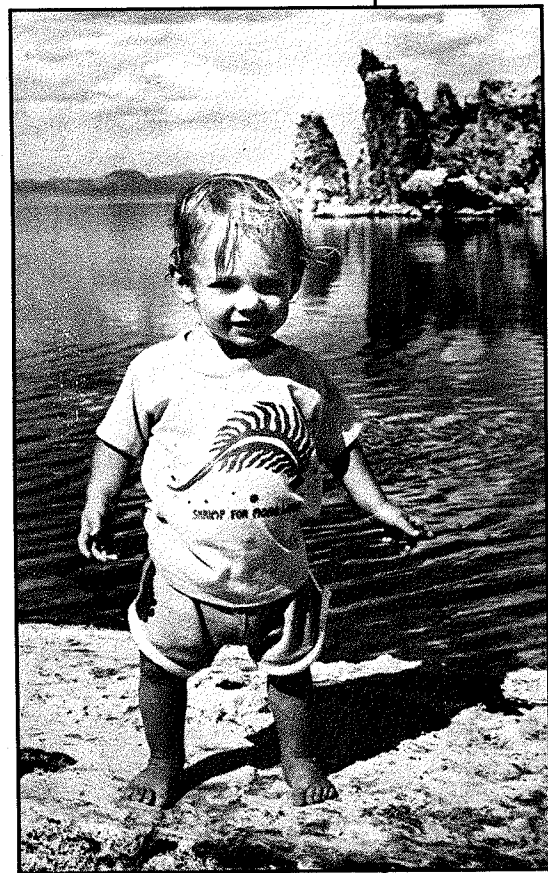


Brine Shrimp T-Shirt Our own Lauren Davis designed this wonderful new brine shrimp t-shirt. Available in short-sleeved, white, 100% cotton, "China" t-shirt, sizes S,M,L,XL (fits large) \$12.50, or light blue, 100% cotton, short-sleeved crew, sizes S,M,L,XL \$9.95

NEW!



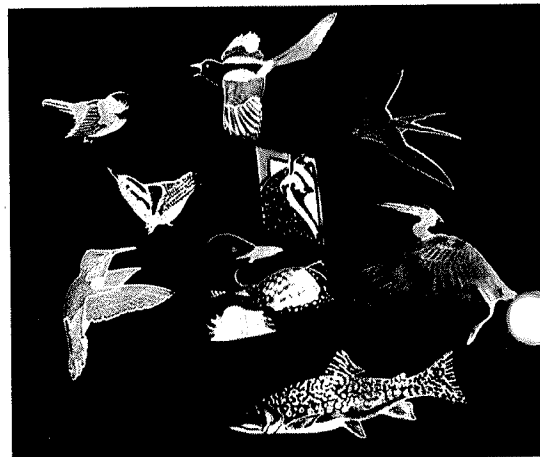
Deluxe Mono Lake Decal. Six vibrant colors capture the magic of a Mono Lake sunrise on a 4-inch, translucent decal. Designed by Rebecca Shearin. \$2.50



Save Mono Lake Stickers Spread the word with these eye catching, blue on white, self-adhesive stickers. Shown half size. Roll of 50, \$2.50

Wm Spear Pins Beautifully crafted and brightly colored enamel pins. Great Blue Heron \$14.00. Magpie \$10.00. Barn Swallow \$8.00. California Quail \$10.00. Loon \$14.00. Red Winged Blackbird \$8.00.* Chickadee \$8.00. Nuthatch \$9.00 Dragonfly \$12.00.* Cutthroat Trout \$12.00. Brook Trout \$12.00.* * (not shown)

NEW!



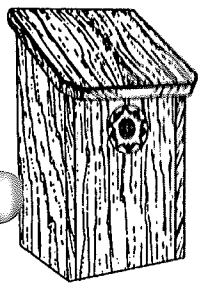
"Shrimp for Mono Lake" Toddler T-Shirt Now, your favorite "shrimp" can help spread the word. Available in pink and blue, sizes 12 and 24 mos. in a 50-50 poly/cotton blend. \$5.95

NEW!





Mono Topo T-Shirts Detailed topo map design of the Mono Basin. Available in black, royal, cream, red, silver and navy, sizes S,M,L,XL, 100% cotton. \$9.95

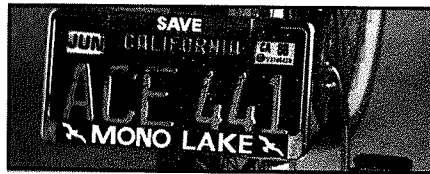


"Official" Bat House Give a bat a home! Bat houses have become necessary

as bats lose their natural and man-made roosts in old trees, buildings, and caves. One bat can catch 500 mosquito-sized insects in an hour. Made of red cedar, 17" by 10" by 7" with two interior dividers, 8 lbs. \$29.95 Add \$2.50 extra for shipping.

Birdhouse Kits All you need is a hammer to build these pre-cut, pre-drilled, cedar abodes. Both models have a removable bottom for easy cleaning. Specify for Bluebirds or Chickadees. \$9.95

Birdsaver Birds fly into windows because they see a reflection of the sky in the glass. Birdsaver is the silhouette of a diving Sparrow Hawk, (a natural predator to small birds), that breaks the reflection and alerts the birds to danger. \$1.95

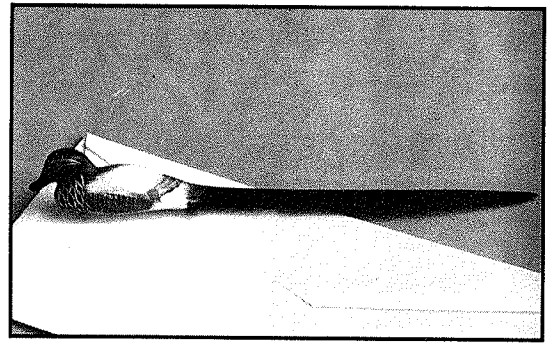


Mono Lake License Plate Holder Sturdy metal design with white printing on blue background. \$3.95

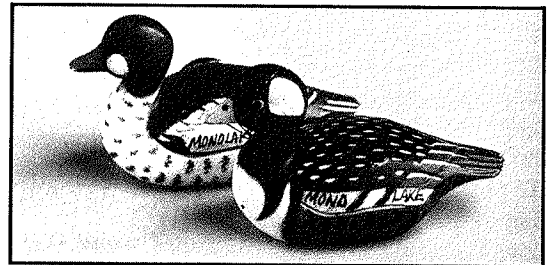


Mono Lake Refrigerator Magnet Dave Gaines' classic Mono Lake photo, size as shown. \$.99

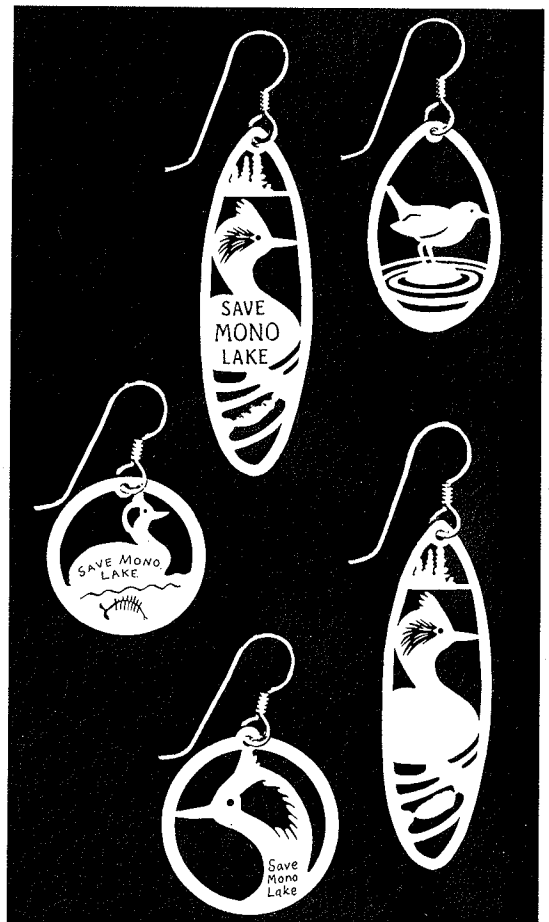
Mono Lake Jewelry Gold or silver plate earrings from hand cut, original designs by Wild Bryde Jewelry. Ear wires filled with respective pure metals. Shown actual size. When ordering, please specify gold or silver. Large Grebe earring with tufa and a real biwa pearl \$18.00. Eared Grebe Head earring \$12.00, and Grebe with Brine Shrimp \$12.00 have "Save Mono Lake" engraved on the back. Water-ouzel (dipper) earring \$16.00



Tail Feathers Letter Opener Beautifully carved and painted wooden ducks with long tails for opening letters. \$4.50



Duck Refrigerator Magnets Assorted species, let us choose one for you. Painted plastic. \$2.95



MONO LAKE CATALOG '89

BOOKS

Mono Lake Guidebook 1985 edition. From tufa to volcanoes, brine shrimp to gulls, aqueducts to water conservation, this 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**

Rise Up Singing ed. by Peter Blood-Patterson. If you love to sing and have searched for words or chords for a particular song, this book is for you. Over 1200 songs representing an incredibly wide range of musical genres. A Sing Out Publication, 279 pp., paper. **\$12.95**

GREAT BASIN

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

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

HISTORY

Survival Arts of the Primitive Paiutes by Margaret M. Wheat. An intimate, beautiful portrayal illustrated with superb photographs. 117 pp., paper. **\$12.95**

Up and Down California in 1860-1864 by William H. Brewer. Classic Californiana including a visit to Mono Lake (he sampled brine fly soup). 538 pp., paper. **\$12.95**

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. **\$7.95**

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 waters or the trouble his passion for gambling got him into. 196 pp., paper. **\$10.95**

The Pathless Way: John Muir and the American Wilderness by Michael P. Cohen. Superb, powerful new book that traces Muir's spiritual journey and ecological enlightenment. 408 pp., paper. **\$12.95**

Paiute, Prospector, and Pioneer by Thomas C. Fletcher. A lucid history of the Bodie-Mono Lake area during the nineteenth century. Unlike other local histories, which abound in myths and exaggerations,

Thomas C. Fletcher sifts facts from fancy, portraying the realities and hardships of life in a boom-and-bust economy. 123 pp., paper, Artemisia Press, 1987. **\$9.50**

Roughing It by Mark Twain. Includes near-fatal adventures at Mono Lake. 626 pp., paper. **\$9.95**

The Story of Bodie by Ella M. Cain. Firsthand accounts of life in the West's wildest boom town. 196 pp., paper. **\$8.50**

PLANTS AND ANIMALS

Field Checklist of the Birds of Mono Basin by Terry Hart and David Gaines. Includes all 259 species with bar graphs. 15 pp., paper. **\$.60**

California Butterflies by John S. Garth and J.W. Tilden. At last, a field guide that enables us to identify butterflies as easily as birds! In addition, this compact volume packs an enormous amount of information on habitat, distribution, life history and behavior of both larvae and adults. From the California Dog-Face to the Zephyr Angelwing, it will add new dimensions of discovery and enjoyment to your outdoor ramblings. 262 pp., paper. **\$10.95**

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. **\$29.95**

National Geographic Society Field Guide to the Birds of North America Hard to find and one of the best guides to field identification available. 2nd edition, 464 pp., paper. **\$17.95**

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**

NEW! A Sierra Nevada Flora by Norman F. Weeden. A complete, tote-size guide to Sierra flora with hundreds of plant drawings and accurate, easy to use plant keys. 412 pp., paper. **\$11.95**

GEOLOGY

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

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", velo-bound, 107 pp., paper. \$11.50

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 of geology, hydrology and biology. Includes update. 190 pp., paper. \$9.50

NEW! The Mono Basin Ecosystem: Effects of Changing Lake Level The 1987 National Academy of Sciences report. This report examines the hydrology, biology, and physical and chemical systems of the lake and basin, and predicts the effects of changes in lake level. 272 pp., paper. \$22.50

NEW! The Future of Mono Lake 1988 This report provides the most up-to-date and comprehensive scientific analysis of Mono's complex system and the ecological consequences of shrinking lake levels. 74 pp., paper. \$6.95

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.

At Mono Lake. ed. by Stephen Johnson. "The" photographic essay on Mono Lake with 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. 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 maps. 192 pp., paper. \$9.95

WATER POLITICS

Water and Power by William L. Kahrl. The definitive account of L.A.'s water imperialism, detailed and vividly written. 583 pp., paper. \$11.95

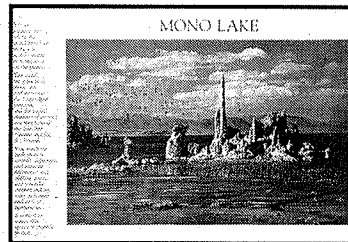
Cadillac Desert by Marc Reisner. The best history to date of the American West's ill-fated love affair with concrete and water. Riveting, frightening and essential for all those who love and would defend free-flowing streams and places like Mono Lake. 582 pp., paper. \$9.95

NEW! Endangered Rivers and the Conservation Movement by Tim Palmer. An insightful look at the history and politics of river conservation in America. \$12.95

MUSIC New!

Dakota Sid, a Bucket Walk favorite, just released his best tape "No Mercy" which includes one of Dave Gaines' favorite tunes "Their Brains were Small and they Died". \$9.95

Mono Lake Slide Program Our 80-slide program vividly conveys the beauty and importance of Mono Lake and the alternatives 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. Allow three weeks for delivery.



Tim Snyder Poster The classic Mono Lake photograph with tufa, birds, and clouds, accom-

panied by Gray Brechin's eloquent prose in a 15 by 22 inch full color poster. \$4.95

CONSERVATION KIT

Help save Mono Lake, and save \$\$ on your water, energy, and sewage bills. We've tested many different water conservation products, and these win our highest ratings.

Water Saver Showerhead. The finest quality chrome plated brass showerhead (with turn-off valve). Cuts consumption by up to 50% (24,800 gallons/year for a family of four!) and reduces annual heating bills by \$100-\$200. Easy to install.

Water Saver Kitchen Faucet Aerator. Swivel head for spray or stream, uses 2-3 times less water than normal aerators. Pays for itself within 55 minutes of hot water use. Dual inside-outside thread will fit most faucets.

Water Saver Bathroom Tap Aerator. Cuts consumption by up to 50% on your bathroom tap. Dual thread design makes this aerator easy to install on standard faucets.

Water Saver Toilet Dams. Two high quality brass dams will fit in your toilet, saving 2 gallons per flush -- up to 20,000 gallons per year for a family of four! Easy to install.

"I Save Water For Mono Lake"

Bumpersticker. Join the proud people who are saving water for Mono Lake by proclaiming your support on your car.

Two Mono Lake Postcards. As soon as you install your water conservation kit, write Governor Deukmejian and L.A. Mayor Bradley and urge them to save Mono Lake.

Buy the Mono Lake Saver Kit at \$25.00 and save \$4.30. Each piece may be purchased individually: Showerhead: \$14.95; Kitchen Aerator: \$6.95; Bathroom Aerator: \$1.95; Toilet Dams: \$4.95; Sticker and cards: \$.50

CATALOG ORDERS

Sales from this catalog support the Mono Lake Committee, a 14,000 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 you are already a member, give a friend a membership. We keep all MLC contributors informed, through our quarterly newsletter and action alerts, of what's happening and how you can help.

MEMBERSHIPS

- | | | | | |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
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MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE MONO LAKE COMMITTEE

FOR INFORMATION OR TO ORDER BY PHONE, CALL (619) 647-6595. WHEN ORDERING BY PHONE, PLEASE HAVE YOUR CREDIT CARD READY AND YOUR ORDER FROM FILLED OUT!

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____	City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____	County _____
GIFT FROM: _____	Phone _____

QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	SIZE	1st COLOR	2nd	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL

California Sales Tax Chart
 Contra Costa, Fresno, Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Cruz..... 6 1/2%
 Alameda, Santa Clara..... 7%
 All other counties..... 6%

Shipping Rates
 up to \$10..... \$2.50
 \$10-\$25..... \$3.00
 \$25-\$50..... \$4.00
 over \$50..... \$5.00

SUBTOTAL	
CA RESIDENTS ADD SALES TAX (see chart)	
SHIPPING (see chart)	
DONATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP (no tax)	
AMOUNT ENCLOSED (not tax deductible)	



THE MONO LAKE COMMITTEE
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