

## **Dr. Sean Boyd Presentation Summary**

This presentation examines trends in Eared Grebe abundance at Mono Lake from 1996–2025 and explores how changing environmental conditions influence migration patterns, food availability, and population dynamics. Long-term monitoring data reveal significant shifts in abundance and timing of peak use, including periods of rapid decline associated with low brine shrimp densities—the grebes' primary food source during their annual molt.

The presentation will also highlight migratory connectivity among breeding areas in British Columbia, Mono Lake, Great Salt Lake, and wintering grounds in the Gulf of California (Sea of Cortez). Findings from VHF telemetry and geolocator studies demonstrate substantial changes in migration pathways over time and underscore the importance of these interconnected habitats to the species' annual life cycle.

Together, these results provide insight into how water management, climate change, and ecosystem productivity influence Eared Grebe populations and the resilience of the saline lake ecosystems upon which they depend.