



KOYOOE TUKADU: PYRAMID LAKE PAIUTE KIT



◆ WE ARE ALL PEOPLE OF THIS EARTH

Anaho Island is about one mile from Pyramid Lakes' eastern shores, 9 miles north of the mouth of the Truckee River and $\frac{1}{4}$ mile south of the Pyramid. Anaho Island is $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile in diameter and 400 feet high. Old folklore says that it has been a breeding place for white pelicans for centuries. Scientific authorities say that Anaho Island has been a breeding ground for over 10,000 years.



From April until November Pelicans lay their eggs, hatch them, and begin raising their young. Pelicans have orange throat pouches hanging below their long scooped beaks that allow them to feed fish to their young. During the heat of the day the birds stand over their young with their eight foot wingspan to protect them from the heat. Any disturbance would cause the adults to fly away, endangering their babies, and leave the area permanently. In November, the birds leave the Pyramid Lake area and migrate south, some fly as far as Panama, using well designated migration routes.

(The Paiutes of Pyramid Lake By: Herman)

In 1913, Anaho Island became a Federal Sanctuary for the study and protection of the worlds' largest web-footed waterfowl breeding colony. This colony consists of pelicans, black cormorants, blue herons, Canada geese, Caspian terns, sea gulls, and a variety of ducks. These birds fly 60 miles to the Stillwater Wildlife Management Area to feed at the Federal Refugees' marshes and lakes.

Since 1905 precious water from the Truckee River has been diverted, causing the water level of Pyramid Lake to recede and putting this delicate island in danger of becoming a peninsula. Currently the only predators on the island are a small variety of rattlesnakes that only prey on mice. If Anaho Island becomes a peninsula this once safe breeding colony will become a feeding ground for all of the predators in the area. The birds and their eggs will become subject to the coyote, kit fox, bobcat, reptiles, and humans. The sudden influx of foreign animals will devastate the population and nesting habits of the local fowl. Since these birds breed on Anaho Island because of its isolation they would be forced to find a new breeding ground. Unfortunately, such a secluded breeding ground can not be found in many other places in modern America.

Anaho Island