



ERNIE COWAN began his love affair with the desert as a young reporter for the *San Diego Evening Tribune*, covering Anza-Borrego Desert State Park®. Over the years, he has captured thousands of images of the desert's unique

beauty, wildlife, and moods, which have been used in state park brochures, greeting cards, and numerous publications—including *Desert Magazine*, *Western Outdoor News*, *Outdoor Life*, and the *North County Times*. He owned a photo studio for twenty-four years, taught photography at Palomar College for more than twenty years, and has accumulated numerous awards as a photojournalist. Cowan, a former mayor of Escondido, is vice-president of Government Affairs for the North San Diego County Association of Realtors.

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*In the end, we will conserve only what we love,  
We will love only what we understand,  
We will understand only what we are taught.*

BOUBA DIOUM, SENEGALESE CONSERVATIONIST



*CERTAIN DESERT AREAS have a distinctive and subtle charm, in part dependent on spaciousness, solitude, and escape from the evidence of human control and manipulation of the earth, a charm of constantly growing value as the rest of the earth becomes more completely dominated by man's activities. This quality is a very vulnerable one...*

*Nowhere else are casual thoughtless human changes in the landscape so irreparable, and nowhere else is it so important to control and completely protect wide areas.*

FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED, REPORT OF STATE PARK SURVEY OF CALIFORNIA, 1929



SUNBELT PUBLICATIONS  
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

PUBLISHED IN COOPERATION WITH:



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FOUNDATION AND INSTITUTE



CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS  
COLORADO DESERT DISTRICT  
ANZA-BORREGO DESERT STATE PARK®



\$19.95

ANZA-BORREGO

A PHOTOGRAPHIC JOURNEY

Cowan



# ANZA-BORREGO

A PHOTOGRAPHIC JOURNEY



ANZA-BORREGO DESERT STATE PARK®

Ernie Cowan



ANZA-BORREGO DESERT STATE PARK®, California's largest State Park, is one of America's most diverse. Here, in stunning full-color photographs, is the entire range of the Park's diverse ecosystems. Journey from the high country down to shady palm oases, across vast pristine valleys and narrow canyons; ascend to dense alpine forests, lush marshes and meadows, and explore the starkly striking dunes and badlands. The compelling vistas and unique desert landforms are interspersed with portraits of animals, birds, insects, and plants—especially the Park's justly famous, brilliantly colored wildflowers.

*Ernie Cowan put his heart and soul onto the pages of this book—the desert world as he sees it, and the spirit of Anza-Borrego as he feels it. Ernie has captured the essence of this grand desert Park, and shares it with the world in this heartfelt account. He has made a lifetime of experiencing the Anza-Borrego Desert and it is our good fortune that he has chosen to share it with us.*

MARK C. JORGENSEN  
SUPERINTENDENT  
ANZA-BORREGO DESERT STATE PARK®

*Anza-Borrego Desert State Park is, for me, the most remarkable landscape on our planet. Its incredible biodiversity, its stunning geology, its crystal clear night skies, its savage heat, its challenging size and topography, and its delightful history of human occupation, usage, and survival all unite to make the Park a unique treasure...a treasure to be conserved in a primitive state for millennia.*

DAVID H. VAN CLEVE  
FORMER PARK SUPERINTENDENT