

the ranch when I visited it on October 11, but I found a few on the 10,000 foot summit of the mountains, apparently resident there. The Blake Ranch is 32 miles west of Zion Canyon.

September 29. At St. George, 2800 feet, a single Nutcracker was seen and collected by Floyd Atkin, a student at Dixie Junior College. St. George is 58 miles southwest of Cedar Breaks, and 14 miles south of the Blake Ranch. It is in the Lower Sonoran Zone.—C. C. PRESNALL, *Zion National Park, Utah, November 2, 1935.*

Some CCC Activities in Yosemite Valley.—It has been said, I believe, that Satan finds work for idle hands to do. Since the CCC army moved into Yosemite Valley many species of bird and beast have reason to believe that Satan has been looking about for idle hands, and with more or less success. With the advent of this army there was inaugurated in Yosemite Valley a clean-up campaign. Dead trees were cut down, dead wood was removed from living trees, and in and about the New Village much mistletoe was cut from the oaks.

Such work as above mentioned necessarily affected certain species of birds. California Woodpeckers (*Balanosphyra formicivora bairdi*) naturally suffered the most, as much of the work was done in their age-old haunts. Two pairs of Red-shafted Flickers (*Colaptes cafer collaris*) that formerly nested in the oak grove, finding their homes destroyed, moved away. The California Woodpeckers, however, rather than leave their beloved oaks drilled new nesting holes in what appeared to be live wood.

With the removal of dead trees the Hairy Woodpeckers (*Dryobates villosus*) have taken to the telephone poles. By drilling their nesting holes just under the cross arms of the poles, the Hairy Woodpeckers are afforded as much protection from the weather as they would have been under normal conditions with their nest holes on the under sides of leaning cottonwoods.

The Brewer Blackbirds (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) and the Western Tanagers (*Piranga ludoviciana*) that formerly nested in the mistletoe bunches were not greatly affected, as they simply moved back into the conifers to build their nests. The tanager, however, is a poor nest builder and a tanager nest in a pine or fir is not nearly so secure as when placed in a clump of mistletoe.

Woodpeckers, blackbirds and tanagers were forced to seek new nesting sites, a matter of great inconvenience, perhaps, but not necessarily fatal to their cause, for, after all, other nesting sites were to be found. But what about the Sparrow Hawks, the small owls, and such small mammals as chickaree and flying squirrel that commonly nest in old woodpecker holes? Will these animals preempt by force of arms the newly drilled nesting cavities of the woodpeckers or will they seek a land beyond the reach of CCC activities?

And then there is the question of food supply. Every dead tree and branch cut down restricts the feeding range of some certain bird. Also the removal of mistletoe will force the bluebirds and other berry-feeding birds to seek new pastures.

If Satan, or the landscape engineers, would just go a step farther and add a bird box to the landscape every time a tree is cut down, they would make the landscape even more artificially attractive and at the same time do the birds a good turn. Of course the bird boxes should be made of glass! A glass bird box hung low would have high educational value, for then the inquisitive visitor to the Park could learn in intimate detail of the family affairs of nesting birds. And too, exotic berry-bearing shrubs might be introduced in artistic groupings to compensate for the missing mistletoe berries!

Real naturalists might not approve of such a program, but real naturalists are few and the people are many. Surely the National Parks are for all of the people and so why not make them as "attractive" as possible, now that the devil is finding so many idle hands.—CHAS. W. MICHAEL, *Yosemite, California, June 17, 1935.*

Avian Ocean Hitch-hikers.—On May 25, 1935, the Iota Kappa Nu Society of the Los Angeles Junior College chartered a small boat for an excursion to Catalina Island to observe birds. En route to the island and about one-half mile from San Pedro, we observed a San Diego Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia cooperi*) flying westward about twenty-five yards from the starboard side of the boat. We watched it for some time and noted that it gradually approached the boat and finally perched half-way up on the rope ladder leading to the top of the mast. It was content to ride for the major part of the trip, alternating its perch at intervals between the top of the mast and the rope ladder. When we were within half a mile of Avalon, it left the boat and continued its flight toward the island.

During the rest of the day we observed several Song Sparrows in and about the shrubbery at the Catalina Aviary and at other points near Avalon. In the evening, about 6 p. m., upon returning to the Hotel Saint Catherine float where our boat was waiting, one lone Song Sparrow (race?) was observed hopping about near the end of the pier. Perhaps it was our "hitch-hiker." Who