

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

knows? Song Sparrows have been recorded as probable migrants from the mainland to Catalina previously, by Meadows (Condor, 36, 1934, p. 40). A twenty-two mile flight over water by a bird of such localized habits as a Song Sparrow, it seems to me, is unusually long, and it may be that small boats travelling to Catalina Island play a large part in aiding these birds in their offshore pioneering, as recorded here.

The "hitch-hiker" recorded above recalls a similar incident to my mind, in which a California Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica aestiva brewsteri*) figured. It was on May 30, 1927, on the annual excursion of the San Diego Society of Natural History to Los Coronados Islands, off Lower California. Shortly after leaving San Diego Harbor, several members of the party observed a Yellow Warbler flying a short distance from the boat. The bird was seen at intervals for some time, maintaining approximately the same speed as our launch, about eight knots per hour. After we were nearly five miles offshore, the warbler approached the boat and finally perched on the roof of the pilot's cabin. There it rested for half an hour or so and then took to flight again. Three times it rested on the boat during the trip. The last time it flew off, about two miles from Corpus Christi (North Coronado Island), it increased its speed of flight and soon was lost to sight beyond the bow of the boat toward the island.—JACK C. VON BLOEKER, JR., *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, October 16, 1935.*

Sage Hen Breeding in California.—In my collection there is an egg of the Sage Hen (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) collected, April 25, 1916, at Fort Bidwell, Modoc County, California, by M. French Gilman. The egg was infertile and was in a nest at the base of sagebrush. Young had hatched in the nest. It is believed that this is the first record for eggs of the Sage Hen in California.—WILSON C. HANNA, *Colton, California, September 21, 1935.*

Two New Records for Arizona.—The Arkansas Goldfinch (*Spinus psaltria psaltria*) and the Nevada Cowbird (*Molothrus ater artemisiae*) have not to my knowledge been previously recorded from Arizona. Specimens of both of these races are in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at Berkeley, California. I am grateful to Dr. J. Grinnell for identifying the specimens and to Mr. James O. Stevenson for his part in collecting them.

An adult female Arkansas Goldfinch (no. 67447, Mus. Vert. Zool.) was collected from a group of about twenty birds by Stevenson on July 4, 1934, from the mountain willows and narrow-leaved cottonwoods of the high Upper Sonoran Zone, 3 miles south of Springerville, 7050 feet, Apache County. This was evidently a breeding bird, as it contained a large egg in its oviduct. Another adult female (no. 67448, Mus. Vert. Zool.) was taken by the writer from a group of five birds on the same day in the narrow-leaved cottonwoods on Blue River, seven miles north of Blue Post Office, 34 miles south-southeast of Springerville, 6250 feet, in Greenlee County. The vegetation at this locality was an intermingling of both Upper Sonoran and Transition plants.

Although the number of specimens taken is limited, it seems probable that the common breeding subspecies of "green-backed" goldfinch throughout the Upper Sonoran Zone, at least on the north and east slopes of the White and Blue mountains of east-central Arizona, is *S. p. psaltria*. It appears, therefore, that the range of this subspecies extends westward to eastern Arizona, the territory formerly thought to be occupied by *S. p. hesperophilus*.

An adult female Nevada Cowbird (no. 67425, Mus. Vert. Zool.), was taken by Stevenson from a group of four birds on July 7, 1934, in the sagebrush and willows of the Upper Sonoran Zone, 3 miles south of Springerville, 7050 feet. This was evidently a breeding bird since a large egg was found in its oviduct.

There are many sight records of cowbirds from the vicinity of Springerville, and it is likely that *M. a. artemisiae*, whose range extends southward into east-central Arizona, is the breeding form in this region north of the White Mountains.—RANDOLPH JENKS, *Arizona State Museum, University of Arizona, Tucson, September 15, 1935.*

An Early Estimate of California's Fauna.—In Grinnell's "A Distributional List of the Birds of California" (1915), the following statement is made in the introduction: "Apparently the first attempt to catalog all the birds known at any one time from California was made by Dr. James G. Cooper in his unsigned contribution to Cronise's *Natural Wealth of California* (pp. 448-480), published in 1868. A brief running account is there given of 353 species." With this statement fairly clear in my memory, my attention was naturally caught by an entry along similar lines that I chanced to stumble across in a publication of earlier date than the one cited above. This is not a catalogue of species, however, merely a numerical estimate of the California fauna, including birds.

In the Proceedings of the California Academy of Natural Sciences, volume III, 1863, pages 23