

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK

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This bulletin is issued monthly for the purpose of giving information to those interested in the natural history and scientific features of the Grand Canyon National Park. Additional copies of these bulleting may be obtained free of charge by those who can make use of them, by addressing the Superintendent, Grand Canyon National Park, Grand Canyon, Arizona.

M. R. TILLOTSON, Superintendent. By - G. E. Sturdevant, Park Naturalist.

RED-SHAFTED FLICKER NESTS ON CANYON RIM.

At least one pair of red-shafted flickers has decided that the Grand Canyon is an ideal spot to propagate their kind.

They have selected a home in a dead pinon pine near the Yavapai Point foot-path. The tree has four old holes and one recently bored hole on the east side. The fresh hole in the tree suggested that some member of the woodpecker family had a home there. After a few knocks, Mrs. Flicker announced herself by flying out of the hole and alighting in a nearby tree. Within a short-time she returned to the tree and re-entered hor home.

HERMIT STEER OF THE CATYON.

A recent visit to Phantom and Haunted Canyons on the north side of the Colorado River, resulted in the discovery of an aged steer leading a deceded life in this isolated region.

In 1916, when the Grand Canyon was a national monument supervised by the Forest Service, a permit to graze cattle on the Tonto Plateau, was given to Scott Dunham of Fredonia, Arizona. Dunham Brought his stock down Bright Angel Canyon and headed them out on the plateau to Haunted and Phantom Canyons. At this place Mr. Dunham established a camp under a huge cliff. If present conditions are indicative of the past, the steers found a bountiful supply of grass in the two canyons.

Upon creation of the Grand Canyon as a national park, the steers were driven out of the Canyon to market. One steer was misssing. Some who were accquainted with conditions believed that the steer had perished while others maintained that he still lived.

While visiting the region in April, unmistakeable evidence was found of a steer that left extra large tracks. The tracks were followed up the stream in Phantom Canyon to a dense growth of cottonwoods. Failure to find tracks above the thicket suggested that he had headed back down the Canyon.

and up Haunted Canyon.

Although the age of the steer is not definitely known, he is believed to be from twolvo to fifteen years old.

DEER ARRIVE AT BRIGHT ANGEL POINT.

The deer on Bright Angel Point, which are a familiar sight to victors to the north rim of Grand Canyon, have taken up their summer abode at that place according to a report received from issistant Chief Ranger F. J. Winess.

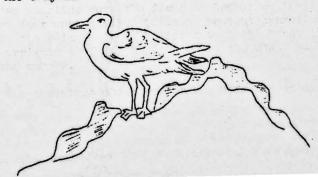
One doe and one yearling were the first to appear on April 27th. Two days later eighteen deer were noticed while at present approximately forty head are ranging on the point. It is believed that the band will be further increased by late arrivals to fifty head which is the usual number-found on the point during the summer.

According to the assistant chief ranger the door are in excellent condition.



SEA GULL VISITS THE PARK.

During the first week of the month a see gull - the first over reported nside the park - was sighted in Bright Angel Canyon by Superintendent M. A Tillotson. While on the Kaibab trail a short distance above Phantom Ranch, he was surprised to see this rare visitant rise from the side of the stream and fly up the canyon.



KAIBAB SQUIRREL PLENTIFUL.

The Kaibab or "white-tailed" squirrel, restricted to the north rim of the Grand Canyon, appears to be more plentiful now than for several years past. Park rangers, who have made obversations in the area state that "several squirrels are now seen where one was seen in the past." One pair has built a nest near Bright Angel Point.

RESULTS OF A LARGE CROP OF PINON NUTS.

Some of the results of Grand Canyon's bumper crop of pinon nuts of last autumn are now most evident.

How nature's supply may influence the dependent rodent population is well mainfested in the marked increas of the Gila chipmunk. Pinon nuts make up a large part of this animal's diet. At present the chipmunks are in a land of plenty. Many nuts are still on the ground and the animals do not experience any difficulty in satisfying themselves. The economic law of supply and demand is carried out by nature in this case by a large crop being compensated by a marked increase of these rodents. Several chipmunks may now be seen where one was observed before. As one walks around the village area he will invariably see several animals scurrying to cover in a rock pile, wood shed, or, if pressed for time, to a tree-top. The increased population can hardly endure. As the diminished supply in the businnss world is off-set by a rise in cost, so will the fast disappearing crop of pinon nuts be compensated in nature by the increased price the chipmunks will pay for living. Competion for feed will soon become keener and then a population commensurable with the supply will exist.

Another result of the large crop of nuts is the referestation of this evergreen. Around the trees and along wishes may be seen numerous pine seedlings. It is interesting to see these incipient pinons pushing the old seed cases, which are still attached, up through the ground.



LADING OF COLORADO RIVER.

Although ten known parties have successfully navigated the turmoilous waters of the Grand Canyon of the Colorado River, several animals that may have tried to emulate these during navigators did not succeed so well.

Recently the crew of workmen constructing the new Kaibab S uspension Bridge have noticed various and sundry articles floating in the muddy waters of the river. Along with the driftwood occur most of the species of domestic stock including horses, mules, cattle, sheep, and hogs. At times the workmen disagree regarding a particular animal. One workman reported a large buffalo floating down the river. Since this was the first buffalo ever known to pass through the park it was considered worthy of investigation. Other workmen called it a burro while still others believed it to be a cow. The animal in question struck a responsive chord in a large group of Havasupai Indians who had just finished earrying a 2200 pound galvanized steel cable to the river's edge. They set up such a leud elemor at socing the animal they quite dimmed the rear of the Colorado River. Relying on the mean observation of the Indians for verification, they were questioned and stated that the "buffalo" was a red and white cow.

The Committee of the National Academy of Sciences, which is cooperating with the Committee of the American Museum Association in the construction and equipment of the scientific observation station at Yavapai Point, is considering the make-up of a program of scientific lectures, relating to the origin and history of the Grand Canyon, to be delivered after the completion of the station during the course of the summer.

Dr. David White, Senior Geologist of the U. S. Geological Survey, is making some studies of the fossils in the formations in the lower part of the Grand Canyon. The work is being carried on under the auspices of the Carnegic Institution of Washington in cooperation with the Grand Canyon Committed of the National Academy of Sciences.