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HEAVY BIRD MIGRATION FROM SEQUOIA

Of the 174 species of birds noted in Sequoia National Park there are permanent residents, summer residents, summer or winter migrants, and summer or winter visitants. Thus it will be seen that at all times there is a constant change of bird life in Sequoia. There is a constant movement from north to south and vice-versa, with a lesser movement from the lowlands to the higher elevations and return. Aside from our native Californian birds there are those from the torrid and frigid zones that come to the park for a portion of each year.

The past week has witnessed the heaviest migration of birds that has been noted for many a year. This is apparently because the past summer has been ideal for nesting and for raising young. Great flocks have been noted in the air on their songless migration. Some species are only moving from the mountains to the lowlands but others are determined on a straight southerly course which, in all probability, will eventually land them in points of Southern United States, Mexico and Central and South America, where they will spend their winter only to be back with us again next year.

It is difficult to recognize some of the species at this time of the year for the parent birds show the effect of a strenuous summer in rearing and caring for large families and are at present moulting; while many of the young have not yet come to their full markings and brilliant coloring of plumage.

The species commonly noted on migration are: Swifts, hummingbirds, flycatchers, crows, blackbirds, orioles, finches, sparrows, tanagers, swallows, waxwings, vireos, warblers, thrashers, wrens, creepers, nuthatches, titmice, kinglets, gnatcatchers, thrushes, bluebirds and solitaires.

Goodbye, dear feathered friends! You have contributed largely to the pleasure of our summer beneath the sequoias. May you have safe passage to and return from those foreign lands. We shall be here to welcome you again in the spring and shall wait as patiently as may be for the days when the air will again be filled by the sweet music from your throats. We know that you are loath to leave the scented forest glades of the Sequoia National Park and that only the impossibility of sustaining life after the snow falls is driving you from us.