

## SCARECROWS

Jon Muir shared some of the fruit with birds and animals; he knew there were ways to prevent them from eating everything! After all, John Muir did want to earn money for his family by working on the fruit ranch. Scarecrows have been used over the years to scare birds as well as crows away from crops.

### FIGURE 1

As ranch hands, you are to use the box of old clothes to make your scarecrows. Two wooded poles should be tied together to make a form for the scarecrow. Instead of using straw to stuff the body of the scarecrow, you should use newspaper.

### FIGURE 2

This scarecrow is a ready method of protecting newly-planted fields from crows, or blackbirds. It is made of a light hickory, or other elastic stick, one end of which is stuck into the ground; to the other end is suspended a glass bottle, from which the bottom has been broken off. The cord by which the bottle is suspended passes through the neck; a nail is fastened to this cord to serve as a clapper, and so attached that it will strike the glass when the cord swings. A piece of bright tin, sheet-iron, painted shingle, or slate, is suspended to the end of the cord. When the wind blows, the suspended tin, or other articles, is whirled in all directions, and causes the nail to rattle against the glass bottle. The flashing of the bright object, and the bottle, as well as the continued rattle, will keep the birds at a respectable distance, for a time at least.

### FIGURE 3

Take a large cork, such as is used in pickle jars, procure some wing feathers of a goose, chicken, or hawk, and stick these firmly into the cork at three sides, so as to roughly imitate a dilapidated bird. Carve a rough head from a crooked branch, and arrange the tail feathers in an expanded position to catch the wind, by which it is caused to dart hither and thither in a most unexpected manner.

Courtesy of the John Muir National Historic Site, Martinez, California