

The woodpecker that really loved acorns

Do you know what a woodpecker is? *(Yes, it's a bird that...)*

Vocabulary

1. discovery 2. spoil 3. roughly 4. intelligence 5. environments 6. adaptable

True Story

In 2009 near San Luis Obispo, California, workers at a phone antenna made a surprising _____. Inside the antenna, they found about 300 pounds (136 kilograms) of acorns. That's _____ 50,000 acorns! These were stored by acorn woodpeckers, a type of bird known for their _____.

Walter Koenig, who studies birds, explains that these woodpeckers usually hide one acorn at a time in tree holes. But in this case, they filled the antenna with a huge number of acorns. Storing too many together can _____ them.

Acorn woodpeckers are common in parts of California. They are known for being clever and _____. AT&T, the phone company, said the acorns blocked their wireless signal. After clearing the acorns, the signal worked again. AT&T then made the antenna stronger to stop birds from doing this again. This story is a great example of how nature can adapt to human _____.

Quiz

1. Where was the surprising discovery made?
2. Why were there acorns in the antenna?
3. How do woodpeckers usually store acorns?
4. What did AT&T do after clearing the acorns?

True or False

- | | | | |
|---|------|--|-------|
| 1. The acorns were found by Walter Koenig. | True | | False |
| 2. Acorn woodpeckers are known for being smart and adaptable. | True | | False |
| 3. AT&T said the acorns did not affect their wireless signal. | True | | False |

Conversation

- A: Hey, come check this out. Something's not right here.
B: What's going on? Is the antenna stuck?
A: No, it's actually filled with acorns! Have you seen this?
B: Wow, those birds have been busy!
A: Well, we better clean this up and fix the antenna.
B: Yeah, but what are we going to do with 50,000 acorns?

Discussion

1. Have you ever seen a woodpecker? Can you think of other animals that store food?
2. Do you collect anything? How many do you have?
3. When you were a child, did you ever hide anything?