

ANAS ACUTA 023

BY SHARON BEALS

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

Contemporary
United States
Bird nests, even without knowing which birds constructed them, seem hardly possible. Creations of spider's web, caterpillar cocoon, plant down, mud, found modern objects, human and animal hair, mosses, lichen, feathers and down, sticks and twigs–all are woven with beak and claw into a bird's best effort to protect their next generation. Photographer Sharon Beals's homage to the amazing avian builders. Photographed for her book, Nests: Fifty Nests and the Birds that Built Them. Chronicle Books, April 2011
The nests were photographed in four science collections: The California Academy of Sciences, The Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, The Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, the Cornell Museum of Vertebrates, and the American Museum of Natural History.
Subject Details:
Northern Pintail, collected in Hayward, California in 1901
Photographed at the California Academy of Science
Feathers are from the brood patch of the female, The feathers are used to insulate the eggs both from cold and heat.

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