



CALIFORNIA QUAIL EGGS AND DOWN

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:
California Quail Eggs, Mendocino County. The feathers might be from the nest building process, rather than from the fledglings as I had thouht before.
I found these eggs in a nest made in what looked like an shallow hollow in some tall grasses. It was well after hatching and quite close to a road, so I chose to rescue them, photograph them, I am donating them to the California

Academy of Science. I have seen the brood occasionally this summer. More often than not, I hear them.
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