

CARDUELIS PINUS PINUS

BY SHARON BEALS

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

Contemporary
United States
Pine Siskin
Spinus pinus

Collected in Humboldt County, California in 1924
Museum of Vertebrate Zoology

Pine Siskins are found in coniferous and deciduous forests from central Alaska and northern Canada as far south as Guatemala. With a cold-defying high metabolism and an insulating layer of fat, if seeds are plentiful they can winter in their breeding territories. In lean years they may roam in flocks, commandeering bird feeders across the continent. In legendary winters, in a phenomenon called an irruption, over 95 milllion have been counted, some wandering a half continent from their breeding grounds.

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:
Pine Siskin (in maple branch)
Spinus pinus
Kneeland, 30 May 1924
North America, United States, California, Humboldt County
MZV Nest/Egg#13472
Museum of Vertebrate Zoology

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