



CEDAR WAXWING

BY SHARON BEALS

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

Contemporary
United States
Cedar Waxwing
Bombycilla cedrorum

Collected in 1992, no local
Cornell University Museum of Vertebrates

The red, wax-like tips of their secondary flight-feathers gave this bird its name. Frugivores, they descend in noisy flocks on a source of fruit, digesting it and spreading its seeds in the process. During nesting season, Cedar Waxwings also glean insects from vegetation or snatch them from the air. This is a species that seems to benefit from gardens and orchards, and their numbers are holding strong, though a single flock can be decimated by vehicle traffic if they find food too close to a road.

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

COUP D'ETAT



Cornell Museum of Vertebrates, and the American Museum of Natural History.

Subject Details:
CUCUMV-Bird39046

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