

GEOCOCCYX CALIFORNIANUS

BY SHARON BEALS

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

Contemporary
United States
The Greater Roadrunner
Geococcyx californianus

San Diego County, False Bay, California, collected in1908
Museum of Vertebrate Zoology

In Native American legend the Greater Roadrunner's spirit was endowed with the power to trap a sleeping rattlesnake. Roadrunners pair monogamously, often for life, and nest in thorny bushes, small trees, or cacti. While the male delivers most of the materials, the female assembles a shallow platform of sticks and lines it with leaves, grass, feathers, snakeskin, roots, and often, dry flakes of manure. This nest, collected in 1908, bears a small piece of burlap, perhaps a replacement for snakeskin.

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:
Roadrunner Nest
False Bay
North America, United States, California, San Diego Co.
10 Apr 1908
MVZ 89
Museum of Vertebrate Zoology
Nest/Egg #89

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