GREATER SAGE GROUSE

BY SHARON BEALS

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

Contemporary
United States
Greater Sage Grouse
Centrocercus urophasianus

Collected in Baker County, Oregon in 1951
Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology

In the scented sagebrush terrain of deserts and prairies in the United States and Canada, the booming of a lek of Greater Sage Grouse males performing their mating displays can be heard for miles. They depend on large expanses of sagebrush for survival. Able to tolerate its toxic oils, but equipped with only a marginally developed gizzard (without the usual grinding pebbles for digesting seeds), its soft leaves and blossoms are their preferred diet. Their numbers are steadily declining in tandem with the loss of this important habitat: which both conservationists and ranchers are trying to protect.

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:
Photographed at The Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, Camarillo, CA
Greater Sage Grouse
Centrocercus urophasianus
Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology
WFVZ 66212
North America, USA, Oregon, Baker County, 10 miles E. of Baker
15 April 1951

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