



MELOSPIZA MELODIA - NEST

BY SHARON BEALS

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

Contemporary
United States
Song Sparrow
Melospiza melodia

Multnomah County, Oregon, collected in 1907
The California Academy of Sciences

The Song Sparrows's sweet trills can be heard from the Aleutian Islands east to Newfoundland, and southward to Central America. The females are the nest builders, weaving a loose foundation from grass, weeds, ferns, bark strips, leaves, even ice plant or seaweed for the outer rim. Fine grass, animal hair, plant down, or feathers line the inner cup. Occasionally manmade materials are employed—several nests found in British Columbia contained generous amounts of nylon window screen.

The nests were photographed in four science collections: The California Academy of Sciences, The Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, The Museum of V...