



RIPARIA RIPARIA

BY SHARON BEALS

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

Contemporary
United States
Bank Swallow
Riparia riparia

Ocean Beach, San Francisco, collected in 1960
The California Academy of Sciences

Bank Swallows nest in cliff faces and river banks, often in large colonies; the air around it alive with these lovely birds hawking insects in dipping, swerving flights. After a migration of 5000 miles, a mated pair excavates a three-foot long tunnel, filling a nest cavity with a simple grass or twig platform. This nest, collected at Ocean Beach was insulated with gull feathers. The colony at Ocean Beach is one of their last coastal nesting sites, and a wondrous sight with chicks sitting at the tunnel entrances waiting for their next delivery of insects.

The nests were photographed in four science collections: The California Academy of Sciences, The Western Foundation of

COUP D'ETAT



Vertebrate Zoology, The Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, the Cornell Museum of Vertebrates, and the American Museum of Natural History.

Subject Details:

Bank Swallow Nest

Nest collected from Ocean Beach, San Francisco, CA

Collection of The California Academy of Sciences

Bank Swallow

Riparia riparia

North America, USA, California, San Francisco Co, San Francisco

Ocean Beach 06 June 1960

CAS 10759 Eggs 8551

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