

RUFOUS-BACKED BUNTING

BY SHARON BEALS

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

Contemporary
United States

Rufous-backed Bunting
Emberiza jankowskii

Collected from Chalantun, Heilungkiang Province, China, 1938
The California Academy of Sciences

Fifty years ago these buntings were common in scattered grasslands and forests in Russia, Eastern China, and Korea. Now the total population is likely to be less than 500 pairs. Much of the grassland in which these ground-nesting birds breed is near expanding villages where nests are trampled by grazing and humans harvesting wild apricots and herbs. Additionally, their eggs and young are collected for food. Drought and snakes introduced to kill rats are also factors contributing to their low nesting success rate.

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:
Rufous-backed Bunting
Emberiza jankowskii
The California Academy of Sciences
Nest/Egg # 9964
Asia, China, Heilungkiang Prov., Chalantun.
12 Jun 1938

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