



TROGLODYTES AEDON

BY SHARON BEALS

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

Contemporary
United States
House Wren
Troglodytes aedon

Collected from Oakville, Napa Valley, California, 1974
The California Academy of Sciences

House Wrens occupy tree hollows and woodpeckers' holes, as well as the nests of phoebes, robins, sparrows, orioles, empty wasp nests, and abandoned beehives. Nests have been found in cow skulls, the pockets of clothes, boots, shoes, tin cans, and even the axle of a car. Females stack as many as 700 sticks up to 8 inches high to keep the inner cup of fine grass, soft bark, wool, or feathers dry. They also add egg sacs of jumping spiders, whose spiderlings consume parasitizing mites. The skeletons in this nest might be from chicks left behind when the adults left to tend healthier, stronger fledglings.

The nests were photographed in four science collections: The

COUP D'ETAT



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:

House Wren (abandoned nest)

Troglodytes aedon

Oakville 03 Aug 1974

North America, USA, California, Napa County

CAS #9479

The California Academy of Science

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