TWO BROWN CREEPER NESTS

BY SHARON BEALS

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

Contemporary
United States

Two Brown Creepers
Certhia americana zelotes

Left: Collected from Spanaway, Pierce County, Washington, 1926
Right: Collected from Echo Summit, Mono County, California, 1942
The Museum of Vertebrate Zoology

Disguised as a piece of moving bark, Brown Creepers circumnavigate tree trunks, consuming a wide variety of insects and bugs. The female builds the nest under a flap of bark or in a cavity of a dead or dying tree, or in the excavations of woodpeckers, squirrel drays, even crevices in manmade structures. A foundation of twigs, bark, and woodchips bound with spider web and cocoons attached at a couple of anchor points supports a layer of wood fibers, leaf fragments, hair, feathers, grasses, lichens, or moss.

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:
left:
Spanaway
North America, United States, Washington, Pierce Co.
23 Apr 1926
Museum of Vertebrate Zoology
Nest/Egg # 4803
right:
4277Certhia americana zelotes
United States California
Mono County Benton 9 mi W6 24 1942

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