



## WILD HONEY COMB WITH GOLDEN MASKED TANAGER NEST INSIDE

BY SHARON BEALS

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### COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

Contemporary  
United States  
Golden-hooded Tanager  
*Tangara larvata*

Collected from Helechales, East of Fiala, Puntarenas Province,  
Costa Rica, 1972  
The Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology

Striking Central and South American members of the Cardinal family, a mated pair shapes a simple, sturdy cup of plant fibers and leaves, often lining it with the black threads of horsehair fungus. It is well hidden, usually in a tree fork or the leaves of a branch. They also adopt other protective sites: the fronds of banana plants, cavities in trees, abandoned hanging oropendola nests, and rarely, the cavity of a scavenged honeycomb. They are insectivores, but they also eat fruit; by dispersing the seeds, they regenerate forests and, in turn, their own food supplies.

The nests were photographed in four science collections: The

# COUP D'ETAT

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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:

Photographed at The Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology

*Tangara larvata franciscae*

Costa Rica, Puntarenas Province, Helechales, East of Fiala

1 May 1972

WFVZ 69142

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