

WILD HONEY COMB WITH GOLDEN MASKED TANAGER NEST INSIDE

BY SHARON BEALS

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

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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