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From Chronicle Books LLC : Nests: Fifty Nests and the Birds that Built Them before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Nests: Fifty Nests and the Birds that Built Them:

11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. EXQUISITE BOOKBy rkgnyclIf you're as fascinated by birds' nests as I am, this book is for you. Each spread consists of 1 full-color picture of a gorgeous and inventive nest, and the eggs that are deposited there. Facing the page is an illustration of the bird that built the nest and a full description of the bird and how it builds its unique home. The variety is astounding, and the materials birds use are often charmingly colorful or make brainy use of commonly found objects, the detritus of both man and nature. I intend to order another of these as a gift to a fellow bird lover.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A beautiful and wonder-provoking photo essayBy Daniel O'donnelliI have purchased two copies of this book as gifts for nature-loving friends. They both loved it. This title has been out for a while ... this is not a scientific treatise or essay. Instead, the nests, selected from a collection, are treated almost as art, and photographed in a way that brings out their beauty in detail, which heightens one's sense of wonder about how they are made. How are they made? Birds do not teach their young how to build - there must be an element of genetic memory. Anyway, this is a just-the-right-size book for shelf or coffee-table, and a sure hit for anyone who likes birds and fine publications. - Daniel O'Donnell, Portland0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. very interesting book thankBy foothillsvery interesting book thank you

Sharon Beals' gorgeous photographs of nests offer a new window onto the life and beauty of birds. Drawn from the collections of the California Academy of Sciences, the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at UC Berkeley, and the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, these birds' nests from around the world offer astonishing insight into the

intricate detail wrought by nature's most fastidious architects. Lovely images of nests and eggs are set against rich black backgrounds, and are accompanied by fascinating and informative portraits—conveyed through words and illustrations—of the birds that built them. A beautiful volume, *Nests* is the perfect gift for birders, bird lovers, and anyone captivated by the fleeting and fascinating splendor of the natural world.

"An intricate, illuminating window into the natural artistry of avian architecture."-- Shelf Awareness
Small architectural marvels were hidden in storage for decades at the California Academy of Sciences until 2007, when artist Sharon Beals began unearthing them from cardboard boxes and wooden cabinets. She wanted to photograph nature's miniature masterpieces—birds' nests—which had been collected over the course of a century from a variety of species. Her images first appeared in Audubon's March-April 2008 issue and on its cover; they soar again in her elegant new book, *Nests* (Chronicle Books, \$29.95). One by one, the structures appear in stark relief on a black background, exposing their exquisite intricacies—colored thread in an Altamira oriole's creation, seashells in a Caspian tern's—and, often, intact eggs. On facing pages, an illustration of the builder perches above companion text describing the species' nesting habits and construction methods. "Each nest is a scientific treasure trove," write the academy's Jack Dumbacher and Maureen Flannery in the foreword. "Each nest is also an amazing work of art." So is Beals's book.-- Julie Liebach, editors choice, Audubon magazine
In her new book, *Nests: Fifty Nests and the Birds that Built Them*, photographer Sharon Beals brings to light an often-secreted piece of the lives of birds. From the collections of the California Academy of Sciences, the Berkeley Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, and the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, she has selected some of most ecologically unique, visually stunning, and just plain ingenious nests built by birds both familiar and exotic, from the marsh wren (*Cistothorus palustris*) to Kauai's akekee (*Loxops caeleirostris*). The nests are, by turn, miraculously intricate, strikingly simple, sinister, strange, or sweet, but all are a testament to the resourcefulness of creatures who lack complex tools but have nonetheless evolved some of the most sophisticated, diverse architecture of any organisms on the planet. Beals' beautiful photographs, a sampling of hundreds of nests carefully collected and preserved, are a testament to the power of these miniature masterpieces to inspire our imaginations and awaken our powers of observation.-- Audubon magazine blog
Drawn from the exquisite collections of three California academies and institutes, the nests in these delicate, detailed images reflect the meticulous care and skill of their creators—50 species of birds, each described in facing-page text that is as free of scientific jargon as it is interesting.-- American Photo magazine
About the Author
Award-winning photographer Sharon Beals is author of several books. She lives in San Francisco. Jack Dumbacher and Maureen Flannery are ornithologists at the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco. Author and naturalist Scott Weidensaul has written more than two dozen books on natural history.