

HIGHLAND GUAN

BY SHARON BEALS

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

Contemporary
United States
Highland Guan
Penelopina nigra

Collected from Tapanatepec, State of Oaxaca, Mexico, 1964
The Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology

Highland Guans inhabit broadleaf and pine oak forests in Mexico and Central America. They are not great flyers, traveling distances by climbing quickly into high branches, and launching themselves into a graceful glide, then ascending again to another launch site. Both members of a pair build the nest, assembling a thick pile of twigs and leaves, sometimes lined with feathers. Guans have been hunted for centuries, but today their tropical forest habitat is the prize, lost to the global demand for produce, coffee, timber, and biofuels.

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:
Highland Guan
Penelopina nigra
The Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology
WFVZ Nest 36,261-2
North America, Mexico, Oaxaca, Tapanatepec
12 May 1964
Photographed at The Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, Camarillo, CA

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