

SPOTTED NIGHTINGALE-THRUSH

BY SHARON BEALS

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

Contemporary
United States

Spotted Nightingale-thrush
Catharus dryas harrisoni

Collected from Cerro Baul, State of Oaxaca, Mexico, 1968
The Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology

With large eyes ringed in orange, yellow-spotted chests, and orange legs and feet, Spotted Nightingale-thrushes are a striking member of the genus of Catharus thrushes. In spite of these markings, they can be extremely hard to find, staying hidden in the understory of the forests of the Central American highlands and the Andes, where they feed terrestrially and nest year-round. The female builds the nest using moss, lichen, and leaves, binding them with rootlets and grasses to form a deep, thick-walled cup, often woven onto a supporting vertical branch, with trailing foliage to disguise its shape.

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:
Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology
Catharus dryas harrisoni
North America, Mexixo, Estado de Oaxaca, Cerro Baul
26 May, 1968
Specimen # 25763-2 nest and egg

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