



## SPOTTED NIGHTINGALE-THRUSH

BY SHARON BEALS

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### 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.

# COUP D'ETAT

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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, Mexico, Estado de Oaxaca, Cerro Baul

26 May, 1968

Specimen # 25763-2 nest and egg

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