

Anim. Behav. 4:85–91, 1956; Simmons 1961; Wickler, Z. Tierpsychol. 18:320–342, 1961). Morphological differentiation of the head and bill, which has led to ecological and behavioral divergence among the Geospizinae (Abbott et al., Condor 77:332–335, 1975, and Ecol. Monogr. 47:151–184, 1977; Grant, Anim. Behav. 29:785–793, 1981), has had no effect on head-scratching method.

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Hermit Thrush nesting on a rock face.—While conducting population studies of birds near Walker Lake, Regional Municipality of Muskoka, in central Ontario (45°21'N, 79°06'W), we observed an unusual nesting of a Hermit Thrush (*Catharus guttatus*) on a small rock face in a mature eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) forest. The local terrain sloped steeply to the lakeshore, with many small rock faces and large boulders.

On 8 June 1977, an adult Hermit Thrush was flushed from the rock face by the senior author. This vertical rock face was approximately 2.25 m high, and faced west. Upon examination, an empty, weathered nest was located on an open ledge. An adult Hermit Thrush was observed on 14 June 1977 on another nest with four eggs located less than 1 m from the first nest, in a rectangular-shaped cavity situated 1.5 m up the near-vertical rock face. The cavity was 30 cm wide, 12 cm high, and extended 21 cm back into the rock. The active nest was directly adjacent to another more weathered but otherwise similar nest and together both nests filled the width and depth of the cavity. All three nests were comprised of bark, twigs and moss, and lined with pine needles, typical of *C. guttatus* (Harrison, A Field Guide to Birds' Nests, Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, Massachusetts, 1975). The cup of the nest in use was 8 cm in diameter, and was entirely protected from above by the rock. Only a portion of the outer edge of the nest was exposed, and grass was growing along this edge. There was a space of approximately 6 cm between the top of the nest and the overlying rock. This particular nesting attempt was unsuccessful.

During August 1978 the nest-site was again examined. The previously weathered nest within the cavity had been refurbished, indicating possible reuse by Hermit Thrushes during the 1978 nesting season.

Hermit Thrushes typically nest in sheltered locations on the ground and occasionally in trees (Godfrey, Natl. Mus. Can. Bull. No. 203, 1966; Harrison 1975). The average height of tree nests is 0.6–1.2 m (Harrison 1975). Bent (U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 196, 1949) reported one instance of a Hermit Thrush nesting on an exposed rock shelf, but stated that the nest is generally built in a “natural depression of a knoll or hummock, forming a kind of protective canopy over the nest [Bent 1949:145].” The thrushes involved in our observed nesting attempts were apparently responding to the shelter offered by the crevice in the rock face.

The location of all three nests within a horizontal distance of 1 m, and the reuse of at least one nest, suggest that this may be a fairly typical nesting practice, or that the same thrush(es) may have returned to the same territory and the same nest-site for possibly 3–4 breeding seasons (pre-1977, 1977, 1978). Although banding returns would be required to verify this, our observations suggest that individuals of *C. guttatus* may reuse nests.—EDWARD R. ARMSTRONG, Ministry of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 730, Cochrane, Ontario P0L 1C0, Canada, AND DAVID L. EULER, Ministry of Natural Resources, Wildlife Branch, Whitney Block, Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario M7A 1W3, Canada. Accepted 23 Aug. 1982.