

**Rhoads on the Extinction of the Dickcissel East of the Alleghanies.**<sup>1</sup>—The Black-throated Bunting, or Dickcissel (*Euspiza americana*), formerly ranged along the Atlantic coast, at least in small numbers, from South Carolina to Maine, and at many points within the area was locally common. Mr. Rhoads here gives good reason for now proclaiming it "a bird of the past," throughout this extensive area. Altogether there is little or nothing to suggest a satisfactory explanation of this decadence. Mr. Rhoads inclines to the belief that the birds have been induced to change their range and join the Mississippi Valley stock, and that they were not exterminated in their former haunts. Whatever the cause, they have certainly gradually and almost wholly disappeared in the East within the last fifty years,—from Massachusetts, Connecticut and eastern New York prior to or soon after 1880, and there appears to be no record of their occurrence in New Jersey or eastern Pennsylvania since 1890. Mr. Rhoads has thus done well to gather up and place collectively on record the history of its decline and disappearance from the Atlantic seaboard, especially as much of the evidence he has here presented was previously unpublished.—J. A. A.

**Silloway's Additional Notes on the Summer Birds of Flathead Lake.**<sup>2</sup>—As stated in the introduction, the present notes relate to the birds observed at Swan Lake during the first three weeks of June, 1902, and serve as a supplement to his former paper entitled 'The Summer Birds of Flathead Lake' (see *Auk*, XIX, 1902, p. 216). The paper is divided into three parts, entitled, respectively, 'Oölogical Notes' (pp. 295-300), 'Notes on New Birds' (pp. 301-333), and 'List of Birds' (pp. 304-308). Under the first heading interesting notes are given on the breeding habits of about twenty species; under the second about a dozen species are added to the previous list; the third division is a briefly annotated list of the summer birds of the Flathead Lake region, numbering one hundred and thirty-seven species, and including all the species thus far noted. The five half-tone plates illustrate the physical features surrounding Swan Lake.—J. A. A.

**Swarth on the Birds of the Huachuca Mountains, Arizona.**<sup>3</sup>—The

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<sup>1</sup>Exit the Dickcissel—a remarkable Case of Local Extinction. By Samuel N. Rhoads. 8vo. pp 12. Reprinted from *Cassinia*, 1903, pp. 17-28, *repared*, and without indication of its original place of publication.

<sup>2</sup>Additional Notes to Summer Birds of Flathead Lake, with special reference to Swan Lake. By Perley Milton Silloway. With introduction by Morton J. Elrod. Bulletin University of Montana, Biol. Series No. 6, 8vo, pp. 289-308, pll. liii-lvii, 1903.

<sup>3</sup>Birds of the Huachuca Mountains, Arizona. By Harry S. Swarth. Pacific Coast Avifauna No. .4. Cooper Ornithological Club of California. Los Angeles, California. Published by the Club, April 15, 1904.—Large 8vo, pp. 70.

Huachuca Mountains form a well-wooded range, extending for about forty miles in a northeast-southwest direction, in the southeastern corner of Arizona, their southern extremity extending across the boundary into Mexico. The base level is about 4500 feet, and the higher central peaks rise to an altitude of about 10,000 feet. These mountains have often been visited by collectors, but hitherto little has been published on the birds of the region. The results here recorded are based on three trips made by Mr. Swarth, respectively, in 1896 (April 25 to July 20), in 1902 (March 29 to September 5), and in 1903 (February 17 to May 30). On the first expedition he was accompanied by Messrs. W. B. Judson, H. G. Rising, and O. W. Howard, and the season was spent in Ramsey Cañon; in 1902 he was again accompanied by Mr. Howard, but in 1903 he was unaccompanied. "Almost all the collecting was done on the east side of the mountains, in the seven canyons from Tanner to Ash Canyon, by far the best part of the range, ornithologically considered." The basis of the present paper is a collection of about 2500 skins, collected personally by Mr. Swarth, and the field notes made therewith. An introduction of three pages, descriptive of the physical features of the region, is followed by a systematic list of the species, one hundred and ninety-five in number. The annotations range from a few lines to a couple of pages for each species, according to their interest, amounting in some cases to quite full biographies.

Mr. Swarth believes that *Melanerpes formicivorus aculeatus* Mearns is entitled to recognition as a subspecies, and that *Phalacroptilus nuttalli nitidus* is probably only a color phase of *nuttalli*.— J. A. A.

**Bartsch on the Herons of the District of Columbia.**<sup>1</sup> — Nine species of Herons have been recorded from within the District of Columbia, eight of which are of regular occurrence. The Black-crowned Night Heron is the most abundant, of which there are three breeding colonies within the District and another just outside its borders. A detailed and very interesting account of these colonies occupies the greater part of the paper. Two of them were carefully investigated in 1902, and an estimate made of their population, from which it appears that probably eighty-eight young were raised that season in the smaller colony and very nearly four hundred in the other. The Little Blue Heron is also numerous, in company with which may often be seen the Snowy Heron and the American Egret. Next to the Night Heron, the Little Green Heron is the most abundant breeder. Four of the seven half-tone plates illustrate the nesting haunts, eggs, and young of the Night Heron, one shows different stages of the young of the Green Heron, and one (with six figures) the

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<sup>1</sup> Notes on the Herons of the District of Columbia. By Paul Bartsch. Smithsonian Misc. Collections, Vol. XLV, pp. 104-111, pll. xxxiii-xxxviii. (Dated "Dec. 9, 1903," but published two months or more later.)