

## Black-faced Honeycreeper

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# Black-faced Honeycreeper

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*Mikayla Heiss*

Sweetbitter unmanageable creature who steals in,  
what brought your demise? The books  
cannot say. Only faded ink  
bears your image. A black mask  
wraps around your eyes. The beak  
that sings forgotten melodies  
is closed to the reader.

Have you truly left?  
15 years since  
a sighting. Your still form  
consumes our memory. Now,

inured scientists  
sit round the table, choking down Blue  
Hawaii. Your homeland  
sighs. What have  
they lost?

Extinct?  
Scientists stare  
at the data, weighing  
the title.