

Black-faced Honeycreeper

Mikayla Heiss

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Black-faced Honeycreeper

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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.