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DICKCISSEL
(Spiza americana)

The Dickcissel, or Black-throated Bunting, has an interesting history. Prior to 1880 it was a rather common bird in the Middle Atlantic States, but is now of very rare occurrence in this region. Even in the Middle West, where it is still common, the distribution is irregular and has changed in recent years. In the summer the Dickcissel makes its home in wide grassy fields where it builds its nest on the ground or in low trees or bushes. The eggs are four or five in number and pale blue in color. The Dickcissel is a tireless singer. The unmusical song, which is given with great earnestness, resembles the syllables "dick dick chee chee chee chee chee," and from this the bird's name is derived. In winter, when they visit South America and when migrating, Dickcissels associate in large flocks.

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3. PAINTED BUNTING
(Passerina ciris)

Among the many brightly colored birds of the United States none is more gaudy than this one. Its brilliancy has won it the name of Nonpareil, the Matchless One. Only the male, however, is thus attired; his mate is plain olive green above and greenish yellow below. The loud, bright song of the male and his gay colors combine to make him a favorite cage bird, but in recent years, owing to protective laws, their capture and sale for this purpose has greatly diminished. This is a shy bird, the male in particular, owing to his showy plumage, takes special care not to expose himself to possible danger. The nest is like that of the Indigo Bunting, but the eggs differ in that they are spotted.

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HOUSE WREN
(Troglodytes aedon)

Few of our birds would be missed more than little Jenny Wren. This familiar and animated bit of feathered life possesses its full share of the energy characteristic of all Wrens. Its bubbling, irrepressible song endears it to all who hear it. It is an irascible little bird and scolds loudly when wandering cats, hawks, or boys threaten the safety of its family. The House Wren usually builds in a bird box or hole in a tree, but when necessary uses any available crevice and has been known to place its bulky nest of sticks in the pocket of a coat hanging in a shed. The eggs are six or eight in number, very thickly and finely speckled all over with pinkish brown. Two broods are raised every season. Insects and spiders constitute the food of the House Wren.

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20.

VEERY

(Hylocichla fuscescens)

The sweet mysterious chant of the Wilson’s Thrush or Veery is unique among our bird songs. Unlike its relative, the Wood Thrush, this species spends the summer in swamps and wet woods. Its note is a soft whistled "whew," which can be so closely imitated that the bird may be called close up to one. The Veery builds its compact nest of bark, leaves, and rootlets on or near the ground. The four beautiful greenish blue eggs are indistinguishable in color from those of the Wood Thrush and Robin.

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21. OVENBIRD
(Seiurus aurocapillus)

The Ovenbird, often called Golden-crowned Thrush on account of its thrush-like appearance, is really a warbler, though in color and habits it is very different from the brightly colored, arboreal species. The Ovenbird feeds on the ground, where it walks about prettily, bobbing its head at each step. Its song resembles the word “teacher” repeated about eight times in rapid succession, each “teacher” louder than the preceding. In May and June this song may be heard in every woodland, for the Ovenbird is very generally distributed. It has also a much more musical flight song, given usually in the evening when the bird ascends high above the tree tops. The nest is a domed structure of grass and leaves, placed on the ground. It is from the fancied resemblance of the nest to an old-fashioned Dutch oven that the name Ovenbird is derived.

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23. GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE
(Oreospiza chlorura)

This is one of the characteristic birds of the Western States, migrating southward in winter to central Mexico. It is an inhabitant of the sagebrush, chaparral, and cactus, and is usually observed singing from the top of a bush or hopping about on the ground. The song is bright and musical and the call is a soft meowing note. The nest, which is placed on the ground, is made of sticks, and lined with grass. The eggs, four in number, are whitish, speckled with reddish brown.

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