

## GENERAL NOTES

## TWO UNUSUAL BIRD RECORDS FOR CENTRAL ILLINOIS.

Two rather unusual records for Central Illinois are those of the blue grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea caerulea*), May 3-10, and of the bald eagle (*Haliaetus leucocephalus leucocephalus*), May 3-20, which I obtained northeast of Rantoul, Illinois.

I observed the blue grosbeaks first, early in the morning in a low plum-bush, where a pair were quietly at rest. For a week this pair remained about the place where I first saw them, and then left.

The bald eagles frequented a walnut grove beside an old abandoned orchard until one was shot in the immediate vicinity, the other about five miles south. The wing-spread of the birds was over five feet.

The record of the blue grosbeaks was the first in many years of continuous observations; that of the bald eagle the first since 1915.

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## THE PASSING OF THE BLUE GROSBEAK

(*Guiraca caerulea caerulea*).

H. T. Jackson's record in the June issue of the Bulletin, of a Blue Grosbeak in this section, recalls to mind the fact that twenty-five years ago the Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*) was very common in this part of the country.

I have not seen one in Maryland, Virginia, or parts of North Carolina that I have traveled in, for over twenty years.

The Blue Grosbeak, some years past, was rather a common breeding bird in the tidewater section, but has been getting more scarce each year, until the seasons 1917 and 1918 have gone by without my seeing a single breeding pair of them. It will be interesting to note if they follow the lead of the Dickcissel and move farther westward.

It has not been the lack of suitable breeding grounds that has kept either of these birds from our territory, for the pine timber has about all been cut off, and was followed by the small hard wood scrubby growth, so well liked and utilized by these two species.

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