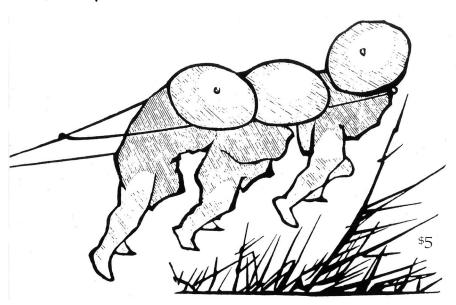
HANK WHP Poor WILL



poems of man & nature

Vol. 2, Number 1

Summer 2010

HAWK & WHIPPOORWILL

Volume 2, Number 1

Summer 2010

from End of June 2010
Island in Milton Cemetery Pond Michael Healy 8
from Stations Against Ruins John A. Griffin 10
from Akeldama
Bosque
The Bridegroom
The Ontology of Sight Eric Anderson 16
Intimating Snow J. Sackett, Jr. 17
Transformations
Pool Beneath the Old Bathhouse D. A. Lockhart 20
The Red Fox Linda M. Fischer 22
Violet Petals Colleen S. Harris 23
Contemplating Adam Amit Majmudar 24
Trusted Sources
The Forest's Daughter Ryan Bayless 27
Another Engine
Anniversary
The Whales Sing an Old Song satnrose 31
New & Recommended Reading The Editors 32
'Anas platyrhynchos'

ISSN 1938-2618

Cover art from *Adventures of Two Youths in a Journey to Japan and China*, by Thomas W. Knox, Harper and Brothers, 1880.



FROM THE EDITORS

66 T et's understand what is not hidden," begins the poem by Ilya Gut-Iner which opens this issue. This is sound advice, for isn't it true that we are already close to a mystery when we set ourselves to noticing and getting a handle on all which is *apparent* in the natural world around us? Without having to delve deeper into metaphysics or history, we already find ourselves immersed in detail. The work of understanding, and cultivating an appreciation for, the non-hidden aspects of nature, can occupy a lifetime. How dizzying to realize that once we do dig into and through that not-hidden world, there are vast realms beneath and above the visible. And even if we restrict our attention to the surface layers of nature - to snails and islands, the sands of Ogunquit and the aroma of lilac blossoms in Arnold Arboretum – somehow the denizens of those hidden strata make themselves known, as in the poem by SATNROSE which closes this issue: "the name forgotten and a salt wind picking up & the leviathans dancing." Whew! The plenum practically vibrates with meaningful beauty and beautiful meaning. If we had an editorial raison d'être in selecting the works in this issue, it was to somehow point to the staggering richness in the nonhidden, and the corresponding vastnessnes of the territories beyond.

— Zachary Bos & Nora Delaney

Hawk & Whippoorwill is a publication of Pen & Anvil Press. The original H&W was edited by August Derleth between 1960-3; this "new series" carries on the title with the kind permission of April Derleth of Arkham House. This issue was edited by Zachary Bos and Nora Delaney, with the assistance of Sean Campbell, Emily Heilig, Liza Katz, and Louisa Mandarino.

© 2010. All rights reserved by contributors and editors for their respective work. Texts may not be reproduced other than for personal or academic use without written permission of the author or editor. Reviewers are encouraged to excerpt when reviewing. For permissions requests and subscription information please contact the editors via the Boston Poetry Union, PO Box 15274, Boston, Massachusetts (02215). Submissions and inquiries may be mailed to the editors at the same address, or sent by email to hawk.and.whippoorwill@gmail.com. For a complete masthead and contributor biographies, please visit www.penandanvil.com/hw.

LYA GUTNER

from End of June 2010

Let's understand what is not hidden, That terminology and truth Are not a mirror and its image; Nor unreflecting hurry – good.

And in the evening backyard shade The light slain by the neighbor trees Falls peaceful on the bleeding plate. And it is wise to sit in peace.

*

But fierce cuts the catamaran
To make the point of rendezvous
Where the white winged Leviathan
And the White Whale bid all adieux.

*

Sea sickness: everything depends On staying true to my own lungs. Enchanted circles on the edge Of the serrated probable.

Enchanted circles round and round – Away from this harsh orphanage Which used to be the Mother Earth! – The whales are leaving for the stars.

While in bright rooms all kinds of people In different ways do not perceive That there is no such thing as simple Emotions about dying seas.

*

The suburb shouts behind our backs
The names of strangers who let live
While we respect their mute demands
Like the harsh silences of myth.

We sit there like the evening shades As light escapes the neighbor trees And falls upon our bloodied plates. And it is wise to sit in peace.

*

There where I go to read, there at the sea,
There at the sea where in despair I go
From stiff complexities and thoughts of grief
Which overtake me in the night of hope,

There at the sea forgetting hesitation Light I leapt up upon the steepest rock And read twelve lines of infinite duration Unto that murmur which will never stop.

*

Strange intersections of the flying cosmos Or sleek entwinings of the growing world But He spoke less and less and I more loudly. And then I understood I was alone.

There was a tattered book clasped in my hand, My clothes were torn from walking through the brambles And a dark cloud concealed the sounds of language And all around was strange to understand.

*

What have I learned except not questioning The seed's bizarre necessity of growth? Strange news begin for me in Genesis At chapter four; most strange the Book of Job;

And strangely sounds that God, too, might be tortured About this world. But through the haze at last I saw Him weep over the dying ocean And did not dare to whisper: *Thou art blest*.

MICHAEL HEALY

Island in Milton Cemetery Pond

Even a satellite can record the oddity.

From back then, from a swampy promontory jutting into a peaceful pond that lulls the dead into staying asleep.

To let us know how close we might've gotten: a chunk of Eden floats near the headstones; a green clearing hardly can dull its own brightness, its centricity rubbing away at the secrecy and subtlety of the surrounding shrubs.

Nowadays I could stomp or swim across the pond, but crossing the invisible line that maintains that principality as being within and against this one would disrespect the sanctity that comes down from the sun and centers this place, keeps my heart inside my head.

And beneath the sanctity, even the short blades of grass cast shadows and the center would move and who anyway wants to be in the center.

The black iron of the cemetery gate might come from those shadows. In any case, I have to return beyond the gates of the cemetery back to that other universe, the one containing all the time from that day back then until this day,

two moments demonstrating how memory springs into action and folds your life over and over into a lilting accordion song.

I have been so folded and therefore taste the sting and am alive.

from Stations Against Ruins

١

We arrived at evening in a garden named Gethsemane, and there in one corner above a torpid pool, where a fountain used to gurgle, but now lies stagnant with clotted algae, a swarm of moths circled and glowed beside a bouquet of night bloomers – the phlox opened its vanilla throat and drank the drunken moths who reeled and fluttered in dizzying luminescent arcs; pink clusters cracked open their globes and the musky air was showered with snowy pollen and limned with the spiralling traces of the insects' eyes.

П

Fireflies wove haloes round the pinwheels where dowaynes danced their sexy masques. The nenuphars averted their eyes and trembled with false modesty where you came kitted in robes and followed by your adepts – magnolias cupped their petals to receive the dripping honey of your tears. You wept because the marques were set. The passion fruit was sunken and dry and the ways of sorrow already led beyond the precincts of the walled arboretum: whatever moved now moved regardless of the sly peculations of the night butterflies and their selenic frenzy.

You hesitated at the garden gate – A quiet balmed the narthex where a rat was and slunk away, and the hyacinths stunk of the blood of betrayal – Rest and be soothed, my child, before you walk that way, and let the humus beneath the grass heal your soles, never mind the bats that have come lured by the Mach Bands spinning off the fluted fronds – they seek only the pap of distended leaves and then to go to massaging the night with their sonars: the Night Court has picked up their cues and issued its verdict. What's done is done. The call of the laughing owl makes you stumble and fall.

— JAG

This poem owes its title to the line from "The Waste Land," "These fragments I have shored against my ruins." It is based rather loosely on Jacqueline Carey's Kushiel's Saga, and so the Stations of the Cross correspond roughly [and profanely] to her thirteen Houses of Mont Nuit. There's also allusions to the Megilloth, or those exegeses by rabbis of the Song of Solomon, Ruth, Ecclesiastes, Esther, and Lamentations.

from Akeldama

In the kingdom of birds, children, birds of prey are the ruling class, hawks and falcons are the barons, and ravens are the clergy, or so they say. This morning, we are going to draw birds. How many can you think of? Doves, eagles, vultures, goldfinch, larks, owls, partridges, cranes, swallows, wrens and sparrows. A symbol of the Holy Spirit, another name for the Paraclete, which we have carved up over the scriptorium door, is actually a falcon. The falcon looks straight into the sun. He can see a mouse from the top of the mountain.

~ ~ ~

I have drawn a falcon and two other birds for you to copy. While you are drawing, children, let me tell you about the caladrius. It's only found in king's houses, a kind of white heron with yellow legs and beak and a long neck like a swan. If it doesn't look at a sick man, the man will die, but if it stares into the face of the patient, the man will live. The caladrius draws the illness into itself and guards open the doors and it flies up over the trees toward the sun where the sickness will be burned away. This bird is like Christ who takes the whole infirmity of man upon himself. The robin and the goldspink came to the dying Christ, attempting to ease His pain by trying to pull out the nails and thorns in His Crown, and that's why they're red-breasted.

SIMMONS B. BUNTIN

Bosque

Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, New Mexico January 1, 2009

Not the riotous snow geese or the cyclone of tungsten wings beneath the dawn's red rise.

Not the silent teals drawn like musical notes across the vellum of the marsh.

Not even the scarlet-capped cranes slowly rowing above copper hills. Rather, my daughters,

bundled in bright plumage on the observation deck

– the unfathomable water glazed in blue ice, the ruby

woods distant and luring – their own capped heads and arms lifted skyward, and rising.

Don Russ

The Bridegroom

Steve Rayman Chevrolet, Marietta

As he arrived, so in time he left, no man of us knowing the day or hour or for that matter exactly how. Out

of time, he seemed – and place: our world paved in, five gassy lanes of highway yards away, chainlinked acres of parked cars.

We'd heard the sun come – self-announced, a raucous copper call behind the few last trees – and then we saw him, his feathers

all fire and blue-green night. He was himself, but we named him one of us and bought a little hen. He left us more alone.

A Note from the Author

The whole story of this poem is true. Before my Camry, I had a Chevrolet regularly serviced at the dealership where the events took place. Over a period of time I'd heard about and even heard the bantam rooster. Before I had a chance to see him, though, he had disappeared, was gone except for an image of him in the computer of one of the dealership's car bays. Nothing the men had said prepared me for how beautiful their one-time mascot was. The man at "my" check-in bay, the man who had first begun feeding the creature, hypothesized that someone thought he was a prize fowl and abducted him.

Nobody even knew where he had come from – he just showed up like a noisy sunrise in a little patch of woods, a bit of unspoiled nature, at the edge of the Chevrolet lot – and then he was gone. No matter that they'd fed him, tried to make him one of them, even procured him a wife. He was gone.

I suspect that I'm the only one who ever fancied him a sort of unrecognized "divine emissary." Incarnation and the other details of New Testament "wedding" eschatology are my own secular but I hope not irreverent addition to the story. I appropriated the religious language and ideas to make the point about a re-entry of the sacred, of the eternal, into the everyday world of matter and time.

I am not religious myself, but do subscribe to the idea of the all-importance of nature – of its sacredness, even. In a world paved over, fenced off, poisoned with exhaust, I am trying to say something about our sometimes too proprietary human attitudes and behaviors in an already compromised world.

- DR

ERIC ANDERSON

The Ontology of Sight

From the highway, the heat of slaughtered cows is mistaken for mist.

The tour guide says, "The fields breathe this time of year."

This time of year, buses filled with strangers draw in the hills.

To them, this is new: seeing their pain take the form of birds piercing trees.

J. SACKETT, JR.

Intimating Snow

Winter creeps its icy underbelly, staggering legs, crooking arms, extending the air's crisp

bite, scarring the afternoon with a memorable wound. Sky's white shards fragment, puzzle

purity's glass pane portrait. The cold noise shatters. Trees bend in obedience to this seasonal

burden; servants to demands of a tyrant wind. Some snap in jagged edges, severing their root

strangle. And men scuttle, crunching the snow beneath abundant layers and wobbling boots.

Women watch crystal daggers descend from branches; the children blow warm air between fingers, night collapses from thoughtless clouds.

Transformations

Great Meadow, near Walden, Two days before my sixty-ninth birthday

On the other side of the trail
a sleeping goose balances on one foot
yoga stork pose
black head tucked under one wing
left foot under the head
tiny feathers at the tip
of his tail quivering
when his balance falters

Behind the goose among purple loosestrife yellow mullein a burst of rose pink hibiscus flowering such lush rococo petals the other wildflowers seem weed

The river that runs along the meadow,
dammed, turns pond, surrounded
by woods ... woods decaying,
never to be decayed...
Water moving – rippling, shirring,
crimpling – like the bay
at sunrise. All these waters – bay ocean pond marsh
river – a skin on the earth
eternally wrinkling
never to be shed.

D. A. Lockhart

Pool Beneath the Old Bathhouse

I wonder what I'm doing here, soaking as old Flathead slides around the poolside in thick flannel. He's been here all his life. Not looking so healthy.

Our simmering water flows smoothly, colliding with disappearing hillsides. No sky, only clouds, steam and sulphur. Flathead says nothing. "That's the smell of healthy," utters a bearded berry farmer from down Oregon way. He's the only other one moving inside our shared tempest.

Yet, we know nothing of each other but our forms against dead thickets of grass towering above snowdrifts.
While wind fearfully shakes them under boarded up hotel above us.

Plywood, not so distant, creaks in gusting flurries. It's this twenty-foot cement tub and old Flathead holding forth in the enveloping whiteness of storm.

Mountains become walls, sky ceases to be sky, we sit. As visitors we've come to a place haunted by memories, faded, crumbling vistas of what place failed with promises. Old Flathead takes our five dollars, drives up the vanishing road.

LINDA M. FISCHER

The Red Fox

That hour when shadows prink then dissemble in first light I sit like a stone palmed by water, waiting for the view from my window to reassemble itself in living color, and think myself lucky when I see the red fox whose morning circuit runs through backyards along the creek.

COLLEEN S. HARRIS

Violet Petals

The violet petals are twelve shades shy of twilight. I lick them hoping for grape-flavored sugar, find nothing but purple pulped on my tongue. The violet petals are the velvet of my mother's best dress, dark like shadows beneath Catholic pews. They are royalty, dressing us up for confession then falling asleep by the cuckolded clover.

Amit Maimudar

Contemplating Adam

No fangs. No claws.

No poisonous blue skin.

No pincushion-

Porcupine

Spines.

No ink,

No sting.

No canines

To give the stray paw

Pause.

No lizard-swift

Lick-thwip.

No alligator

Padlock-jaws.

No burnished tortoise

Armor plate or

Poison-ivy

Just you try me.

No boar

Tusks.

No skunk's musk.

No fur.

No python maw.

No roar,

No grr.

Not even a caw.

Yet before Him all Creation Heels and neighs and Bows and scrapes in Sacred horror, Sacred awe.

CALEB KLACES

Trusted Sources

or, Everything I've ever wanted to say, as recorded in Environmental Research Letters 1, October-December 2006

A frankness of pretty and horrid life steeps a little pool cupped in tough, splayed mottled green-pink leaves. Cockroach nymphs fleck outer axils. Mosquito pupae bob. Bluish-brown salamanders dissolve heavy-winged ants. The whole business held aloft on a forest branch's branch. (I imagine like Liberty's flame). Meanwhile, in what's now Chad 10,000 years ago senseless photosynthesis drove algae to glim the wide lakes that glimmered there, time-heat-dried to a deep sandbowl, which gets a wicked wind now, thickening that air with dust: leavings of algal clot along with hard spicules lathed in long-gone grasses are by satellites caught streaking brown the blue Atlantic. Yearly, forty million tons of it from the Sahara's tiny navel airdrops in the Amazon, which would be sludge, the authors say, without African dust.

RYAN BAYLESS

The Forest's Daughter

Rise to meet the sun dancing on water.
I tell everyone I see about the forest's daughter.

I followed her this far—a tree bends near the stream. A leaf drops slowly down like sleep into a dream.

Make a sort of net to catch the river in. A finger lace is best for such a subtle skin.

She comes and goes as one who knows where moments meet. The letter that she left me still lying at my feet.

The wind shifts on the plain—the waking of a storm.

The ocean to the west becomes another form.

Another Engine

T.

We enter the house of the winter, carrying our birdseed bride. She will scatter, soon. She will fade. In a month, the bag of fat will be drained. The house full of mice and dried sage. In a month, memory will demand an actual image. A crutch. A sequence of events. A quest.

II.

Go into the field and bring back sheaves of wheat. Go into the olive groves and the grape arbor and bring back the bodies of your brothers. Go to the battlefield and pick the asphodel which grows there.

III.

We enter the house of January. Should I forget you, oh January?

IV.

The dove-cote has been painted blue, dust cantilevered into the massive eaves. Struck out, voices buckle behind tunnels, columns, girder, beams. The voices buckle already—the precious structure is collapsing. We enter the house of January clothed in robes of fire. My father is dead. The children come to me and open their hands. Look the beginning...[]...a...to find from (2 lines unrecoverable)... defilement which....

V.

The fallen bodies complicate matters—the stacks of bodies, the unclean roses of bodies, the cabal of rotting plums. Everywhere we fly by. We fly...the everywhere. Some space into which the word is already flown, created, recreated. Some wind returns the blade-edge light and then beats forward.

VI.

Go into the field and bring back the dead. Go to the edge of the world and retrieve all who have fallen. Who can teach me to find God? Those that [...] all in a [...] blessed, and they [...] like a salamander. So many of these, my brother. So many of these. No more in the body or frayed soul. No more in the word or thought of a word.

VII.

We enter the house of snow, carrying our tinsel bridge. Soon she will fade. Soon she will be torn apart and reconstituted as a series of pipe cleaners. In bottles on the window-sill. In the steam from mulled wine. Forget the quest—we demand sleep. Forget sleep—we demand dreams. Waking dreams. Foreign dreams. And after those, even more.

VIII.

Go into the body and bring up the soul. Temper it, coil it like malleable copper. Teach it. Teach it to mend its own clothes. To find the rip in the hem, to thread the needle with fine-lit-wire. With burning wire. With fog and the hair of angels. The body, it complicates things. My body's heart is pure—it's the spirit sister that can't be taught, that can't be tooled down, that can't be stopped. O there she goes. O there.

Anniversary

Again this year the magnolia leaves bloom and fall and punctuate the grass with pink apostrophes. There is possession in them, in that they were mothered and forgotten. In that they own my eyes for now, after work but before the invasion of voices and barking. Each one is a little girl without a father. Staring up at me. Each one has a mother too barren to care.

The Whales Sing an Old Song

to Mexico and beyond dolphins running down their game birds shouting shadows standing on the edge listening for the keen listening the whales the name forgotten and a salt wind picking up & the leviathans dancing sing an old song old when the world was young young from the Arctic smashing down into the roils up past the beach there is a fire in a cave up the bubbles advance to the surface that is the way to go so rising to black sea cold water pressure down 300 feet upside down is right side the light scattered breaking through the waves jumping over the sun

ZACHARY BOS & NORA DELANEY

New & Recommended Reading

Our World of Water by Beatrice Hollyer, from Francis Lincoln (2008). \$9.43. Follows six children from different countries, answering the question of: How does water play into one's daily life? Topics range from how the children use water to drought and flood threats in their areas.

Gifts of the Crow: How Perception, Emotion, and Thought Allow Smart Birds to Behave Like Humans by Tony Angell, from Free Press (2012). \$16.50. Highlights the intelligence of corvids and their similarities to human beings through storytelling and diagrams, accompanied by full illustrations.

Building on Nature: The Life of Antoni Gaudi by Rachel Rodriguez, from Henry Holt and Co. (2009). \$16.99. Children's book about Antoni Gaudi, with a focus on how his architecture reflected his observations in nature.

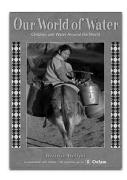
My Side of the Mountain by Jean Craighead George, from Puffin Books (2004). \$6.99. A young adult novel about a young man who leaves city life to live in the Catskill Mountains in upstate New York. He lives in a burnt-out hemlock tree, befriends a hawk, a weasel, and a raccoon, and learns self-reliance. See also the sequels On the Far Side of the Mountain (1990) and Frightful's Mountain (1999).

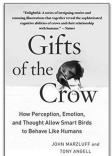
"A Place for the Bees" by Virgil, translated from Latin into English by the Boston-area poet and scholar David Ferry. Appearing in the January/February 2005 issue of *The Atlantic*, these lines of verse specify the ideal setting for establishing a bee-hive. Agricultural acumen and a gentle,

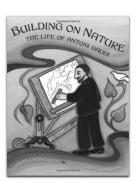
humane sensibility are hard at work here: "And there should be a limpid spring nearby, / Or a moss-edged pool, ... / And there should be sweet blooming marjoram near... / and violets / Drinking from the trickling spring or stream." An excerpt (Book IV: 8-32) from Ferry's complete translation of the *Georgics*, published by FSG in 2006.

In "Everywhere an exile," an essay in *The Guardian* (May 2009), Adam Foulds argues that we should not dismiss John Clare's "poems of peasant life" as "naive and unliterary." Rather, we should view Clare as "our greatest ecological poet." Foulds's *The Quickening Maze*, a historical fictionalization of Clare's madness, was published by Jonathan Cape last year.

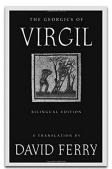
Find more recommendations online at www.penandanvil.com/hw/3.

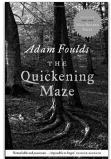














Anas platyrhynchos

The MBTA agent was bewildered to find members of the H&W editorial staff sprawled on the floor of the Alewife station on the Red Line. We were there, Nora Delaney and I, with paper and graphite pencils, to make rubbings of low-relief bronze tiles created by local artist Nancy Webb. The tiles, a hundred of which had been set into the station's mezzanine floor in 1981 as part of the T's "Arts on the Line" initiative, each feature one of a dozen different species of plant or animal indigenous to the marsh-and-meadow Alewife reservation, the largest intact wetlands in Cambridge. The image above (a mallard) began as one of these rubbings, before being scanned and cleaned-up in photo-editing software.

We thank Ms. Webb for her kind permission to publish these images in print and online. Readers may enjoy learning more about her work at www.nancywebbstudio.com.

In this issue:

ERIC ANDERSON RYAN BAYLESS SIMMONS B. BUNTIN Hannah Craig LINDA M. FISCHER MELISSA GREEN JOHN A. GRIFFIN ILYA GUTNER COLLEEN S. HARRIS MICHAEL HEALY CALEB KLACES SANDRA KOHLER D. A. Lockhart Amit Maimudar WILLIAM NEUMIRE Don Russ J. SACKETT, JR. SATNROSE



THE PEN & ANVIL PRESS PO Box 15274 Boston, Massachusetts 02215 www.penandanvil.com/hw ISSN 1938-2618

