



Grand Valley State University

From the Selected Works of Kim L. Ranger

March, 2008

Birdwatch

Kim L. Ranger



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons CC BY-NC-ND International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/).



Available at: <https://works.bepress.com/rangerk/42/>

Birdwatch

Before sunbreak,
the bones of the trees grope downward.
No winter birdsong softens
the opaque edges of sunrise
orangely pinking the verge of indigo.

Daybreak pinpoints hoarfrost
riming each tendril, needle, twig in crystalline ermine.
Lighthearted skitter, a frisson
like a butterfly against deep-summer greens and blues:
nuthatches' nutty laughter.
Giggling upside-down like shamans' unforgettable lessons:
the complexity of integrity
fleeting, lacelike, as flittingly electrifying
as veined lightning.

A flash of scarlet rays heralds
male cardinal crossing the snowy field with piercing whistles.
The female cardinal more constant,
quietly chipping.
Gore stains the robinheart,
dries to russet on the red-breasted nuthatch.
The glib wagtails flee,
untouched by their own malice
when finches drab to olive,
retreat to sanctuary,
haven.

Kim L. Ranger