

Wilderness House Literary Review 12/1

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The Brooding

Desirous I am of the robin redbreast
who swells out his heart with aggression
and attacks all male rivals in his territory
then flies back triumphantly to join his mate
while my own mate drives me off the branch
when I try to give him a peck on the cheek.
Do I have to spread sticky bird lime on the boughs
to keep him from taking flight?

Envious I am of the redbreast hen
who nurtures her chicks until they fledge
yet my own mate no longer provides for me.
I could chase away the happy mother
and throw the speckled eggs out from her nest
preening my own bright feathers to entice her mate.
Once I almost had his claws next to mine,
but at one stern glare from his overstuffed hen
does he shoo from my advances.