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Speed of Birds

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Heather Lang

speed of birds

the two prayers knocking at the

three-seasons door

with a list of birds

by speed of

flight

name themselves

the spine-

tailed

swift

and the spur-

winged

what is your

conservation

status?

the poem is knocking at the back of

my bathroom mirror

and fogs up my

memory, says

you've been pretty

unfaithful

lately

so

this is

it:

this prayer

was the one canvass-

backed and red

breasted

reading my

newspaper this

morning

over my shoulder