

I Watched a Bird
Tanner Pfeiffer, 2016

I.

I watched a bird
Crash into its own reflection
So many times
That they both fell to the ground
And died.

I wonder how many people
I am watching
Do the same thing.

II.

I watched a bird
Crash into its own reflection
So many times
That the bird
Fell to the ground
And died,
The image of its reflection
Which it had fought
So hard to destroy,
Preserved in perpetuity
As what others
Would remember most.

III.

I watched a bird
Crash into its own reflection
So many times
That the glass shattered,
And the reflection
Fell to the ground
And died,
Liberating the bird
To fly freely
For a quiet non-eternity
Until it would find
Another reflection
To war against.

IV.

I watched a bird
Crash into its own reflection
So many times
That it realized it was wrong
And flew away.

V.

I watched a bird
Crash into its own reflection
So many times
That they both
Fell to the ground and died.

I wonder how many people
Would have done more
Than watch.

VI.

I watched a reflection
Stare at its bird,
Unable to act alone,
Appearing only as its bird
Could make it appear.