



11-15-2008

Birds Redux

Gay Baines

Follow this and additional works at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/westview>

 Part of the [Fiction Commons](#), [Nonfiction Commons](#), [Photography Commons](#), and the [Poetry Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Baines, Gay (2008) "Birds Redux," *Westview*: Vol. 28 : Iss. 2 , Article 16.
Available at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/westview/vol28/iss2/16>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at SWOSU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Westview by an authorized administrator of SWOSU Digital Commons. For more information, please contact phillip.fitzsimmons@swosu.edu.

Birds Redux

by Gay Baines

Over Union Road, a herring gull
tilts himself. Above him in
the blue-white sky, a
jetliner turns and banks.
The gull thinks *I can do
that too, but I do it
differently*. He banks and

turns, his companion does
the same. Crows near the bush
off Schwartz Road float
on a summer day, eyeing the
smooth water of a swimming pool,
where a woman floats, arms out,
feet dangling. *We do that,*

they crackle to each other,
*but we do it up here,
in the open, not in that wet stuff.*
The cat, well-fed, stalks a champagne-
wire, attacks and tortures it to death,
or thinks he does. I hesitate in the
supermarket, buying haddock, heart

in my mouth, gazing at the lobsters
tanked behind the counter. Some day,
I think, I'll set you all free.
Back home, the cat, games over,
looks down at me from his perch
on the mantelpiece, saying, but
not in so many words, *You fool.*



Photo (detail) by Joel Kendall

