



6-15-2005

Blue Heron

Daniel R. Schwarz

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

Schwarz, Daniel R. (2005) "Blue Heron," *Westview*: Vol. 24 : Iss. 2 , Article 32.
Available at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/westview/vol24/iss2/32>

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.



Blue Heron

by Daniel R. Schwarz

Canoeing around a swampy lake at dusk,
while visiting my aging parents,
brooding, too, of unmarried sons,
unborn grandchildren,
my wife and I gasped at a blue heron
majestically presiding over the marshes,
regally balanced
on delicate greygreen
razor-thin legs on a tiny branch
jutting into the water.
Whenever we quietly approached
admiring gentle arch of purple
“S” shaped neck, turn of curved beak,
it spread stately wings,
flying ten yards in front of us
as if protecting its nest, or searching for mate.
This became a pattern: our pursuits,
its abbreviated low flight to another spot,
always in front until we turned towards the dock—
when it finally flew in back of us, and
we backpaddled to catch a final glance.
We recalled Thoreau on
Walden Pond trying to find a loon.
When we later saw our heron
(or another larger grey blue one?)
soar on enormous wing,
heard its honking, perhaps mating, sound,
I was reminded how we fear
the incomprehensible as we
seek narrative patterns
amidst the marshes of our generations.

