

expands on the topic this article should be of interest to both those who were fortunate enough to hear her talk and to those who missed the event.

## BIRDING

by Victor Toews

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. strangers<br>in strange cars<br>dark sky<br>black trees<br>white patches of snow<br>on muddy country road       | 2. never mind<br>there are manuals<br>follow the rules<br>IDENTIFY!       |
| 3. cold in the bone<br>rain on the pane<br>slanted design on the windshield<br>thank-god<br>someone brought sherry | 4. a flutter<br>a twitter<br>IDENTIFIED!<br>page 9<br>Didn't you see it?  |
| 5. to keep us warm<br>try to remember her name<br>focus the lense<br>laughter crackling and sharp                  | 6. twi-dee-dee<br>twi-dee-dee<br>bills wide and yellow<br>over the tree   |
| 7. missed the punch line<br>roll down the window<br>scope into focus   | 8. airy fairies in the dairies<br>patterns of feathers<br>looping the sky |
| 9. write in a book<br>open window<br>more sherry<br>thirty species so far<br>four un-identified<br>in the car      |   |

## A HUMMINGBIRD BIDS FAREWELL

by Patrick Wootton

I have hesitated to tell this story about a humming bird as I felt sure most people would laugh me "down the drain", but the other day I heard of a similar incident over the radio. This person was telling of a Whip-poor-will with a broken wing which she had tenderly treated and healed. The last night before the bird took off and flew away it sang to her all night, as if to show appreciation for her loving care and skill.



In my case, down at our Murray Harbour home last year, my wife Ann and I had been feeding a very active family of hummingbirds during the summer months, the feeder being affixed to a hook hanging outside our sunroom.

On September 20th I was getting dressed standing close to one of our bedroom windows at the other end of the house, you can do that in the country, when a single hummingbird appeared in front of me and stayed hovering on eye level with me, just outside the glass. I said to Ann that I thought he or she was bidding us farewell and sure enough the syrup level in the feeder remained