

Birdsong Today

“Sir : I’m 14 and have just started my GCSEs...I want the chance to be something, to make a difference....[but] whilst we grow up our planet is being destroyed...” Isabelle Ellis-Cockcroft, Stroud, Gloucestershire, Letters to the Editor, “The Independent” Thursday 19th January 2006.

Birdsong today
from the roof ridge opposite
around eleven
lasting about three minutes.
I think it was a starling.

Then again towards dusk
(a time of clamour when I was young)
I heard a still small voice
in the great plane tree
down the road

and saw it -
a tiny
misty shape
high in the branches
scolding me with its song.

It lasted a minute or two
before darkness fell.

*Rogan Wolf
January 06*

7 Haiku for the Waiting Room

I wait without hope
intent on my moment. Here
I am all healing.

Time turns treacherous.
Each moment surrenders me
to the dread of next.

Waiting separates
me from my failings. Virtue
loves the waiting room.

This chamber afloat
is a pause between sorrows.
The ship falls silent.

We were born to wait.
Room follows room. Stations pass.
Next, my turn. Then, yours.

No-one has ever
sung in a waiting-room, have
they? Might we start now?

If I hold my breath
I stop time passing. Time, wait.
I wait. Now breathe out.

*Rogan Wolf
February 2006*

Red Squirrels on the Isle of Wight

Their “redness” is actually pale fox
their ears taller, more pointed than the grey.
“Greys don’t feature on this island,”
he said, with a meaningful look,
the young man serving in the fine foods shop
with local rabbit and pheasant for sale
(though remember “beware of shot”).

After the first scutter off the path
their silent game got the better of them
and they let me watch
them sprinting up and down the various sides
of trees just metres away. I shall soon be 60
60 and these the first I’d ever seen.
Praise be for their beauty and their play
secured by the chance of a ring of tides.

*Rogan Wolf
Easter 2006*

Note :

The grey squirrel was introduced into Britain during the nineteenth century. Since then, it has driven Britain’s native red squirrel from much of England. But it has not yet crossed over to the Isle of Wight.