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## Two Poems: The Hawk [and] Baltimore Oriole


Don Welch

*University of Nebraska at Kearney*

Mark Emil Sanders

*Stephen F. Austin State University*

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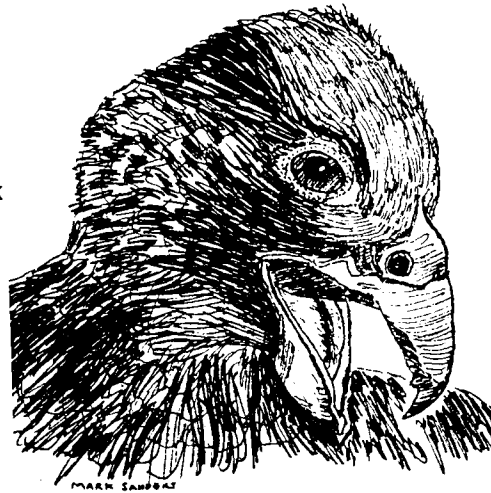
The Hawk

Somewhere years from now  
I hope I'm saying this  
to my sons. Why the hawk  
had hit the trap I couldn't guess.  
In the face of it  
It was pointless.

But it had hit the trigger  
dead center with both feet,  
for a moment lifting  
that fatal weight  
before the blind torque  
of the trap had sprung.

After that its wings had clawed  
at the sand for hours,  
its cries had gradually sunk back  
into its throat, although  
its beak, thrust defiantly  
at the stream, held on  
to its animal yellow.

Then it had pulled everything in,  
for a moment the hawk  
and only the hawk's turn.  
In that blind and beautiful light,  
trying to hold on,  
as the trap held on,  
to what it was.



### Baltimore Oriole

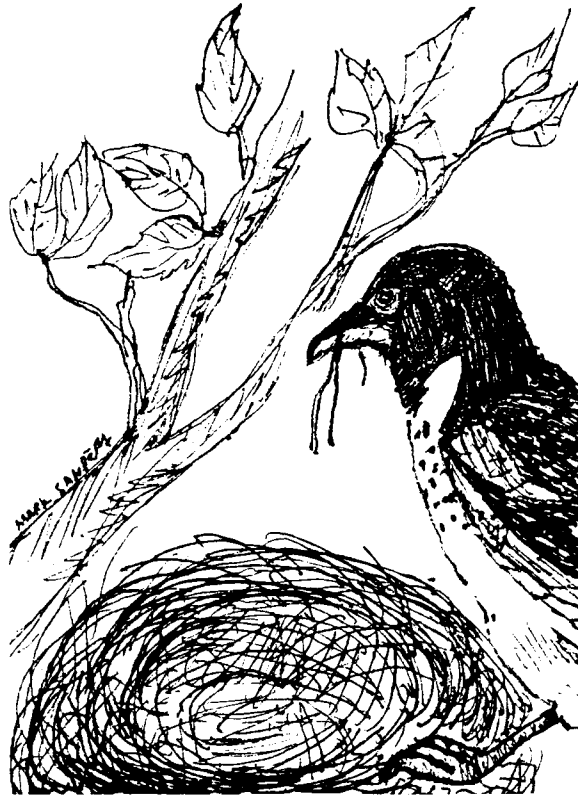
This morning the oriole  
is a good carpenter,  
working itself  
for the sake of its nest.

Hounding the right bits of grass,  
it has turned flight  
into a muscular blossoming.

The air is something  
it keeps slipping into;  
it is what it beats  
into breath with its life.

Tonight the sky will be hung  
with migrational stars;  
it will be the dark hunting  
ground of owls, the briefer tomb  
of anything sleeping.

But tomorrow the oriole  
will be at its work again,  
and it will be singing.



For further information about Don Welch and his considerable contribution to Nebraska literature consult the listing of material at the following internet location: <http://mockingbird.creighton.edu/NCW/welch.htm>

And to learn more about Mark Sanders' art and poetry consult the following internet location: <http://mockingbird.creighton.edu/NCW/sanders.htm>.