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Two Poems: The Hawk [and] Baltimore Oriole

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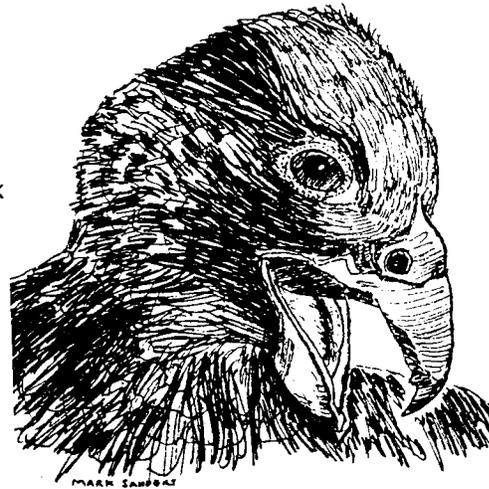
The Hawk

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>.