

## ECTOPIC BEATS

what is the time remaining if not January's | variant bird-  
gaze beyond wing-tips | the feathers' migration over time  
as they became light | perfectly  
arranged like daydreams before doubt grew new skin | or us  
when waking up was joy | not this blank stare | this grief  
fledged but molting | fall plumage dull as grass in drought  
so apt | to adapt to loss | this eulogy birds write with goaded squirrel  
in a moment's | blurred scurry | across | a trail of branches  
as if the birds saw your mouth over a limp sparrow's bill | how little  
puffs failed to make it breathe | how dull | your reflection | in the window  
this loss | a dirty pane of glass | the feather smudge | where flight ended



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