

Wilderness House Literary Review 20/1

*Holly Guran*

**Recalcitrant Convergence**

Sparrows, chickadees  
small brown bodies touch briefly,  
willingly. As quickly as they land,  
a cue dispatches them  
scattering to the far fence,  
the neighbor's arborvitae,  
the waving branches of oak.

Instinct moves this  
confluence of sudden intent  
which only lasts seconds  
before the birds are drawn back  
to the feeder to resume  
pecking. They repeat, defying  
moments of fear, their need to flee—  
strangers to disappointment.