

Nesting Children

In the white puff vacant lot – dandelions,
A sea of seed makers on milky stems over skimpy grass.
"Its hardly worth trying to pull them out of the yard,
The wind coming from that direction and all."

On barren orange clay
In a deep wheel rut near the road,
"Hey what do you kids have there?"

"It's birds!!"

Four crouching balls of gray lint
Being tried by each encounter.

"What a crazy place to make a nest;
Talk about asking for It."

"We're going to dig them up."

"I don't think you better do that;
You might hurt them.
The mother made that place especially for them"

"Hey..... Don't do that,
Don't touch them;
The mother won't come back if you....."

"I'm going to get my gun
And shoot the big one when it comes back."

"Why?
If you do.....
There won't be anyone to take care of the babies."

"You better leave the birds alone now;
If you are always around,
The mother can't come back to feed them,....."

"Let's all get back now..... way back....
Jimmie! Come on now.... so the birds can grow."

"He must have mowed right over them....for Christ's sake....
But.....they're still there....."

"That's the first time I've seen the mother feeding them."

A shrine for the daily neighborhood pilgrimage.

"Hey.... You better leave the birds alone.....

"They won't run out of the nest,
If you'll leave them alone.....
And let the mother take care of them."

"Why don't those kids leave them alone?"

"Damn, they make me mad."

"For God's sake their mothers should know better."

"Why do they come too?"

"Why don't they get those kids away?"

"It's just ridiculous!"

"It's a titlark: It's like a sparrow....

But it runs; it doesn't hop."

"It's wonderful for the kids to get to see a thing like that."

"It's a wonder Jeff's cat hasn't found them;"

"It must be the babies don't have any scent
When they're young."

"They're so big already."

"They're gone!!!!"

"I went over there.....and they're gone."

"I hope nothing got them."

"I'll tell you.... if I was their mother,
I'd sure have got them out of that place
As soon as I could."

"A grand thing for the children;

They were so excited!!"