

# The Prairie Light Review

---

Volume 14  
Number 1 *Seasonal Dreams*

Article 8

---

Fall 12-1-1994

## Animal Seasons

Harold Tinkle  
*College of DuPage*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://dc.cod.edu/plr>

---

### Recommended Citation

Tinkle, Harold (1994) "Animal Seasons," *The Prairie Light Review*: Vol. 14 : No. 1 , Article 8.  
Available at: <https://dc.cod.edu/plr/vol14/iss1/8>

This Selection is brought to you for free and open access by the College Publications at DigitalCommons@COD. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Prairie Light Review by an authorized editor of DigitalCommons@COD. For more information, please contact [orenick@cod.edu](mailto:orenick@cod.edu).



## Animal Seasons

by Harold Tinkle

The white cat came as a surprise  
to rabbits, field mice, cold birds  
and me. I froze at both door and window,  
saw the whole thing. Saw the snow,  
partisan to the cat, hush his footpads  
and hide the big sniper from the best of eyes.  
We saw motion sometimes, a fur flow,  
or his snow bed or snow table only and those  
feathered. It was hard getting through.

Then a thousand blackbirds sprang  
up like dark tinsel or ribbon  
or the notation of their own code song.  
We had grown dumb to that ballet  
hosanna, and could not say why  
they would fly so, lean edge on  
and then turn, causing the sky to blossom.

We had forgotten the signal, but the white cat  
padded away, knowing what it meant.  
He'd killed enough

and now, until  
he comes home again, the birds are going to fly  
and make a living of the sky  
which is bluer, and the clouds are individual.