

THE PROSE POEM: AN INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL

Volume 3 | 1994

Potential Birds Thoreau Lovell

© Providence College

The author(s) permits users to copy, distribute, display, and perform this work under the following conditions: (1) the original author(s) must be given proper attribution; (2) this work may not be used for commercial purposes; (3) the users may not alter, transform, or build upon this work; (4) users must make the license terms of this work clearly known for any reuse or distribution of this work. Upon request, as holder of this work's copyright, the author(s) may waive any or all of these conditions.

The Prose Poem: An International Journal is produced by
The Berkeley Electronic Press (bepress)
for the Providence College Digital Commons.
<http://digitalcommons.providence.edu/prosepoems/>

Thoreau Lovell

POTENTIAL BIRDS

Lie close frail and silent body. And read the potential birds in the branches. Come back as bits of story. Out-law humming bird, dependable robin, solemn dove. As the century's slow stomp rumbles inside the wooden balconies, the shopkeepers creased boots. Reverberating under the rich valley. Lie with me on a hot summer day near the *torture gardens and scenic railways. The radio that told me about the death of Billy the Kid.* In a weed-choked field, with poplars propped against the wind. The ragged margin of a shallow ditch lost in frog song. Tell me about the land. Music's sad geography. How we mapped and mimicked it.