

john martone

starling

dogwood & honeysuckle
2007

*here is one fact of life: a man stands
along the roadside...*

–tenko nishida

starling

no stars
tonight

this wind's
from there

bound for those woods
starlings
me

starling-dusk
my blanket
shaken out

mid
thick
et—

space
just

yr
size

someone gets settled
for night
in that tree

riverbank's
mobile home
gone today

just then
gull shadow
my shadow

a daybreak-full-moon-
come-to-earth
puffball

walking under pines you raise yr arms partway

under pine needles
this mushroom's
yr skullcap

this brown lichen's my color exactly

he does
not know

which to
prefer

achene
or capsule

samara
or berry

or stone

not
stepping

on
spider
ling

twisted
this

big
ankle

a roadside homeless someone's bag

reach in
breast

pocket
find

for
gotten

wild
flower
seeds

this last aster
& fingers
blue

fallen tree trunk — you're a blue whale

pine needles fallen
good place
lie down

in my brown coat
curled up
in weeds

a rented room
by the sea
for me

catkins

now my room's
a pond

you pickt thru a mound of thrown-out flowers

old man
in bed

ankles
crossed

his
habit

from
the womb

to be in bed
in an attic room
roof overhead for wings!