

Winter birding, con't from page 1:  
 Birds he has spotted in winter include Barrow's Goldeneye, Lesser Scaup, all three scoters, Cattle Egrets, Ring-billed and Herring Gulls, and many woodpeckers.. In milder winters Eastern Bluebirds stay, as do American Tree Sparrows, Carolina Wrens, Song Sparrows, Harris' Sparrows and Juncos, including Oregon and Pink-sided. Raptors include Barred and Great-horned Owls, kestrels and an occasional goshawk.

Marilyn Koshland, Burroughs' program chair, says her own home near Lee's Summit is her hands-down choice for best winter birding spot. Her house is a birding Eden, with a 40-acre pond just outside the door and creeks on two sides. On a good morning in winter, Koshland said she can see 15 species of waterfowl and thousands of Snow and Canada Geese while still in her pajamas.

The Koshlands have 10 active feeders around their house and supply Geese with 50 pounds of corn daily. One November there were 20,000 Snow Geese in flocks beginning about 30 feet from her house, she said. Bald Eagles prey on the geese.

Their seven-acre home abuts the James A Reed Wildlife Area, where birders can experience all the avian wonders the Koshlands enjoy, just not in their PJs. Koshland said there are 12 ponds at the 2,603-acre wildlife area, and the birds consider their pond an extension of the state-run area. The area is also good for passerines and raptors.

As Mark Land observed: "There are tons of good places to go in the winter." What better way to combat the winter blahs than to chase some winter birds?

More information on Lone Star Lake, Shawnee Mission Park and the James A. Reed Wildlife Area is available readily through Internet search engines.

--John O'Neill  
 Kansas City

*It has to be spread out,  
 the skin of this planet,  
 has to be ironed, the sea  
 in its whiteness;  
 and the hands keep on  
 moving,  
 smoothing the holy  
 surfaces.*

-- In Praise of Ironing, by Pablo Neruda

It has to be loved the way a laundress loves her linens,  
 the way she moves her hands caressing the fine muslins knowing their warp and woof, like a lover coaxing, or a mother praising.

It has to be loved as if it were embroidered with flowers and birds and two joined hearts upon it.

It has to be stretched and stroked.

It has to be celebrated.

O this great beloved world and all the creatures in it.

*It has to be spread out, the skin of this planet.*

The trees must be washed, and the grasses and mosses.  
 of green brass.

They have to be polished as if made The rivers and little streams with their hidden cresses

and pale-coloured pebbles

and their fool's gold

must be washed and starched or shined into brightness,

the sheets of lake water

smoothed with the hand

and the foam of the oceans pressed into neatness.

*It has to be ironed, the sea in its whiteness.*

and pleated and goffered, the flower-blue sea

the protean, wine-dark, grey, green, sea

with its metres of satin and bolts of brocade.

And sky overhead - night and day

must be burnished and rubbed by hands that are loving

so the blue blazons forth

and the stars keep on shining

within and above  
 and the hands keep on moving.

It has to be made bright, the skin of this planet till it shines in the sun like gold leaf. Archangels then will attend to its metals

and polish the rods of its rain.

Seraphim will stop singing hosannas to shower it with blessings and blisses and praises

and, newly in love,

we must draw it and paint it our pencils and brushes and loving caresses

*smoothing the holy surfaces.*

--P.K. Page

### Duck, Duck, Goose

Mallard  
 Wood  
 Canadian  
 Ruddy  
 Comb  
 Egyptian  
 Howard  
 Daffy  
 Mother  
 Gadwall  
 Ring-Necked  
 Pilgrim  
 Donald  
 Peking  
 Grey  
 Pintail  
 Tufted  
 Diepholz  
 Shoveler  
 Pochard  
 African  
 Daisy  
 Billed Platypus  
 Gossage  
 Teal  
 Mandarin  
 Chinese  
 Redhead  
 Crispy  
 Brown  
 Wigeon  
 Gargany  
 Embden  
 Rosy-Billed  
 Scrooge Mc-  
 Toulouse

--Michael Ward