

The Ornithological Collection of Uwetsiageyv

A Flight of Fancy
in Two Hundred and One Parts

David J. Keffer

written March 16, 2016—December 21, 2016
Knoxville, Tennessee

The Poison Pie Publishing House
Knoxville, Tennessee
www.poisonpie.com



Copyright © 2016 David J. Keffer
All rights reserved.

ISBN-13: None associated with this edition

This initial printing is a limited edition of ten copies.

for cousins, Ruth and Kay

The Ornithological Collection of Uwetsiageyv

A Rather Lengthy Table of Contents Enumerating the Two Hundred and One Parts

I. An Opening

1. Uwetsiageyv.....	3
On the Meaning of Deformities.....	3
A Memory.....	4
Orphans.....	4
Metamorphosis.....	5
The Departure.....	6
The Ascension.....	7
The Storm.....	8
The Ocean.....	9
The First Island.....	10
2. Kònèy & Chwèt.....	13
A Dialogue.....	13
The Crow.....	14
The Owl.....	15
An Exchange of Names.....	16
A Tautological Map.....	16
The Invitation.....	17
The Lecture.....	18
A Limit.....	19
A Farewell.....	20

II. Donning the Costume

3. <i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>	23
A Welcoming Song	23
The Baptism	24
The Cathedral	25
The Declaration	26
Three Doubts	27
4. <i>Turdus migratorius</i>.....	29
The Whistle	29
Three Gems	30
A Grove of Dogwoods	31
Speculation on the Afterlife.....	32
An Eye-Opening.....	33
5. <i>Baeolophus bicolor</i>.....	35
An Exclamation.....	35
A Boundless Optimism	36
A Balance for Permanence and Impermanence.....	37
The Totem	38
An Unintended Answer.....	39
6. <i>Spinus tristis</i>.....	41
A Hidden Treasure	41
The Whispering Dwarf.....	42
The Denial	44
The Golden Thread.....	45
Rumpelstiltskin.....	47
7. <i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	49
A Cryptic Reply.....	49
An Imponderable Answer.....	50
The Mandala.....	51
Augury.....	52
Athena's Favorite	53
8. <i>Poecile carolinensis</i>	55
A Delayed Response	55
An Old Skin.....	56
The Origin of Serpents	57
Several Conjectures.....	58
The Breach	59

9. <i>Picoides pubescens</i>	61
A Rhythm	61
The Cave.....	62
The Dress.....	63
Degrees of Translucency	65
The Unexpected Reception.....	67
10. <i>Toxostoma rufum</i>	69
The Sickle.....	69
An Ancient Enmity.....	70
The Mulberry.....	71
The Owl's Diet	73
Ten Thousand.....	73
11. <i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i>.....	75
Drink your tea!.....	75
Thoughts from the Spire.....	76
The Rectangular Plot	77
The Prince.....	78
Thoughts Not Shared at a Small Estuary.....	80
12. <i>Archilochus colubris</i>	81
Honeysuckle	81
Sun Bathing	82
The Pigment.....	84
The Theft	85
The Summer Solstice.....	86
13. <i>Columba livia</i>.....	89
Moccasins.....	89
The Wonderful Net.....	90
The Comedy Routine.....	90
A Mistaken Death.....	91
A Nap.....	92
14. <i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>	95
The Shoes	95
The Confrontation.....	97
An Annunciation.....	98
The Sutra of the Crow Maiden	99
A Parting of Ways	100

III. Mounting the Stage

15. <i>Sitta carolinensis</i>	105
The Flying Machine	105
The Reflection	106
The Woman in the Clouds.....	107
The Campfire.....	108
An Aborted Loathing.....	109
16. <i>Sialia sialis</i>	111
Tall Grass	111
The Search Revisited.....	112
A Geography Lesson.....	113
The Hollowed-Out Oak.....	115
The Intimation of a Key	116
17. <i>Sayornis phoebe</i>	117
An End to the Clamor.....	117
An Act of Sabotage	118
An Alternate Perspective.....	119
Two Peaches.....	120
An In-Flight Concession	121
18. <i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	123
A Tirade.....	123
Parting Instructions.....	124
A One-Sided Conversation.....	125
The Search Resumes	126
A New Object.....	127
19. <i>Passerina cyanea</i>	129
Stellar Navigation.....	129
A Garden of Eden.....	130
The Sea Drake	131
A Fast	132
The Cloud Field.....	133
20. <i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>	135
A Sweetly Whistled Song.....	135
A Stranger.....	136
Objections to Egg-Sitting	137
Strengths and Weaknesses.....	138
A Half-Hearted Merging	139

21. <i>Melanerpes carolinus</i>	141
Shared Flight	141
Names	142
The Nameless Dwarf	143
King of the Mountain	144
So Much Trouble over a Simple Truth	145
22. <i>Colaptes auratus</i>	147
A Hidden Singer	147
Beneath a Butternut Tree	148
Whispered Words	150
A Difference of Opinions	150
An Optical Illusion	152
23. <i>Icterus spurius</i>	153
The Follies of Youth	153
The Clear Lake	154
A Doppelgänger?	155
A Variety of Means of Duplication	156
On Purpose	157
24. <i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i>	159
A Hug!	159
Songs of the Inanimate	160
A Documentary	161
The Crow Lad	163
The Owl Who Threw Stones	164
25. <i>Zenaida macroura</i>	167
An Unlikely Volunteer	167
The Secret Library	168
A Field of Boulders	169
A Sentimental Offer	170
The Tanager's Tale	171
26. <i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	173
Here, A Giant Has Fallen	173
The First Reunion	174
A Misapplication of the Wisdom of Solomon	175
A Second Farewell	177
The Gate	178

IV. Delivering the Performance

27. <i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	183
The Entrance.....	183
The Sequence of Peace.....	184
A Victim of Unchecked Melancholia.....	186
Two Uncles.....	187
The Dwarf’s Prayer	188
28. <i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>	191
Arrival at a Rusty Gate	191
The Lost Message.....	192
The Creaking Secret	193
A Preface to the First Edition.....	194
The Summons.....	195
29. <i>Carduelis pinus</i>	197
The Sutra of Flight	197
The Watch Winders.....	198
Fourier Series	199
On Patience.....	200
The Ventriloquist.....	201
30. <i>Hirundo rustica</i>	203
Giuseppina d’Alia Pitre	203
The Silent Sycamore	205
A Sundering.....	206
A Lonely Place	207
A Moment of Panic	208
31. <i>Progne subis</i>	209
The Gardener.....	209
Gourds	210
An Upper Bound	211
Why She Came.....	212
An Impatient Listener.....	213
32. <i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>	215
The Water Bearer	215
Fishing.....	216
A Description of Old Magpie.....	217
An Unintended Popularity.....	219
An Act of Malfeasance.....	220

33. <i>Falco sparverius</i>	223
The Falconer	223
On Relative Stature	224
A Reminder	225
Uncovering the Lamp	226
Selected Dreams of a Magpie	227
34. <i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	229
The Hunter	229
A Shared Trait	230
A First Sighting	231
A Second Sighting	233
Good Bye, Old Magpie	234
35. <i>Megascops asio</i>	237
A Quiet Arrival	237
Night Landing	238
A Conspiracy	239
The Table	240
A Monologue	241
36. <i>Bubo virginianus</i>	243
Breath	243
The Hertzprung Taxonomy	244
A Footnote from the Analects	245
Farewell, Alexei Nilych Kirillov	247
A Trance	248
37. <i>Tyto alba</i>	251
A Rite of Courtship	251
A Belated Introduction	252
An Historical Dispute	254
A Retroactive Prophecy	255
Iterations of a Message	256
38. <i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	259
An Unknown Form	259
Apocrypha	260
A Private Admission	261
Words in Fog	262
A Spell	263

V. A Closing

39. Visiting Hours	267
The Library	267
Hong Samud	268
Two Hundred and One, But Who's Counting?	269

About the Author

David J. Keffer was born in Kansas City, Missouri. He pursued a technical education earning a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Florida and a Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Minnesota. After a year as a post-doctoral scholar at the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, D.C., he began his career as an engineering professor at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, where he remains today. He has published about 100 technical papers in archival journals. He was awarded a Fulbright Grant to learn and to teach about sustainability in Seoul, Korea.

Outside of engineering, David Keffer studied world literature and creative writing. He has published analytical articles on the works of Primo Levi and Kobo Abé. He created various reading aids to several classical Chinese novels. Over the past two decades, David Keffer has been active writing novels, poetry and stories. Several novels and illustrated stories are available from the Poison Pie Publishing House at <http://www.poisonpie.com>.

Beginning in 2012, David Keffer began teaching a course on the subject of non-idiomatic improvisational music, of which he is a dedicated listener and a topic which has aided him on an investigation of a literature of non-idiomatic improvisation.

David Keffer lives in Knoxville, Tennessee with his wife, Lynn, and two children. As a family, they enjoy hiking through the local mountains and are always on the look-out for poison pie and other ambivalent mushrooms that dot the landscape.

Also (Un)Available from the Poison Pie Publishing House
Post-Existential Fantasies Generated through a Non-Idiomatic
Improvisational Creative Process by David J. Keffer

Novels

- Wouldn't the Wood Weird, or Impractical Prayers from the Spindle of the Void (2016)
- The Portable Library of Hong Samud: a novel that grew as a vine grows, guided by an innate, phototactic sensitivity (2015)
- The Augur in the Arbor Inn: A Tautological Myth of Evolution (2015)
- The Implacable Absence: A Non-Idiomatic Improvisational Duet (2014) (with Henry E. Gorton)
- The Ruins of My Daughter's Cities: An Imaginary Travelogue (2013)
- The Dream Quest of Unknown Kadath (Revisited): A Modern Adaptation of the Novella by H.P. Lovecraft (2012)
- The Sutra of Reverse Possession: A Novel of Non-Idiomatic Improvisation (2012)
- The Horties: An Invisible Novel (2010)
- Owen & Dolores: A Sketch (2000)
- Perhaps: The Continuing Exploits of Alton & Eugenia (2000)
- Alton & Eugenia: Twelve Stories (1999)
- Slow Ecclesiastes: An American Novel of the Late Twentieth Century (1998)
- A Memory of Fire: A Novel of Indeterminate Conflagrations (1997)
- Symptoms of the Lunatic (1997)
- The Wooing of Eva: An Empty Journal (1996)
- Hysteresis: An Asymmetric Account of an Individual Apocalypse (1995)
- novelwise: a treatise on wisdom by process of elimination (1995)
- June and Jitter (the bugs) (1993)
- insect: an entomological fairy tale (1993)
- These Stars Are All The Same: A Survey of Constellations (1993)
- I Saw Blood and then Everything Went Black: Sixteen Dark Fables from the Future (1993)
- this is how we are: a daemonic debut (1992)

Illustrated Books (with the Keffer family)

- A Bestiary of East Tennessee (2015)
- The Faerienomicon (2014)
- The Mushroomnomicon (2013)
- Tales of the Mushroom People II: Call of Cthulhushroom (2012)
- Tales of the Mushroom People (2011)
- Eugenia and the Forest (2000)

Prayer Books

- Jacob's Dream (2015) (with Ruth Keffer)
- A Prayer Book for the Damned (2014)

Collected Stories

- The Leg & Other Stories (1991-2013)