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The Cedar Waxwing

Carolyn Masshardt

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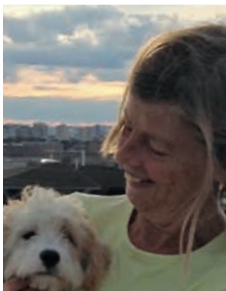
Carolyn Masshardt

It had not been in my nature to observe nature
At least of the familiar sort of trees and birds
And flowers and landscapes.
Yes, to sky and clouds and stars,
But that is looking up and not out.

My windows have been backdrop to humans these many years
People at all times of day and night, a city neighborhood
The pious and privileged and imperiled
Rushing, even hiding, a familiar rhythm of curse and comfort
Sirens interrupt the already noisy calm.

Here, my August day is too still
A campus in waiting for all that will come
A little sorrowful as only a city person might fathom
Too little of all that usually meets eye level.
There is no background noise to set a life alarm.
And then a human visitor comes to hammer out a project yet to be.
Welcomed as food or drink to the stranded in this August heat.
Soon, we see a Goldfinch, Cardinal, Tufted Titmice and a Chickadee
And the bleached, haggard, overgrown land becomes alive.

I had thought I was alone all that day,
the window open for only a breeze.
And then I see more; Blue Jays and Song Sparrows,
and looking out quietly and at eye level
A Cedar Waxwing may appear.



*Carolyn Masshardt is Director of Field Education
for the School of Social Work.*

Call for Submissions

Bridgewater Review invites submissions from full- and part-time faculty members and librarians, and others in the BSU community. *Bridgewater Review* is published twice yearly by the faculty and librarians of Bridgewater State University. It provides a forum for campus-wide conversations pertaining to research, teaching, and creative expression, as well as a showcase for faculty art. Articles in all disciplines and genres are welcome and encouraged, including scholarship about research interests and trends, scholarship about teaching and learning, creative writing, and short reviews of other publications.

Articles should be 1700-2200 words in length, though shorter articles will also be considered. Creative writing can be submitted at lengths briefer than 2200 words. Those wishing to submit are asked to consult the *Bridgewater Review* submission guidelines (available from the Editor). In keeping with the founding spirit of our faculty magazine, the editors are equally interested in unfinished pieces of writing that may need assistance with revision and in polished pieces that are publication-ready. All submissions will be reviewed, but there is no guarantee that submitted work will be published.

Bridgewater Review also welcomes Letters to the Editor with the hope that *BR* may become a locus for community discussion at Bridgewater State University.

Submissions should be sent electronically to:
Ellen Scheible
Editor, *Bridgewater Review*
bridgewater.review@bridgew.edu

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Bridgewater State University
131 Summer Street
Bridgewater, MA 02325

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