

A BIRD

Two small birds thrashing under
the bush beside the stairs
of our new mountain home—
so busy, and so urgent as
always with small birds—
But our business is to identify them
for we are newly arrived
to this tiny magical town
and there is no excitement like
seeing unfamiliar birds,
and then finding their names
in our specialty book purchased at
Sassafras Bookstore downtown.
It is as if the day
hangs on our learning its names—
to preserve this moment by
stopping the current to name
a single ruffle of its moving life.

- David Kherdian