

Contents

Foreword	ix
Preface: Why I Write	xv

Spring

Wind Borne	3
Restless March	4
Spring Washes Its Face	6
What Bird Is That?	10
Birding Memories, Past and Future	14
Early Mist	20
Devious Ducks	21
Wading in Beaver Ponds	24
Mid-April Morning	26
Old, Old April	28
A Day in Early May	29
The Virtuoso Brown Thrasher	32
Early June Troubles	35
Quicksilver	41

Summer

Fairy Dust	45
Birds Along the Hocking	46
The Chat	48
Gentle Hours	51
Evensong	53
Looking Back	55
Rubythroat	59
The Geese Fly Now	60
Waning July	64
The Sound of Longing	67
Lost—By Choice	70
Night Shadows	74
The Passing of August	75
September Lament	79
Thirteen Jays!	83

Fall

Letters Home	87
Lonesomeness	88
Giving Thanks	92
Eighty-fourth Birthday	95
The Lingerer	98
October Omens	99
The Daytime Trip of the Nighthawks	102
An October Walk	106
Reverie	110
At Last, the Rains	111

Autumn Stage Settings	114
Invocation	117
White-Throated Sparrow	118
November's End	122
Autumn's Encore	125

Winter

December Snow	129
My Backyard Adventures	130
Ring In the New	134
The "Old" Year	138
Hill Country Streams	139
Visitors in the Snow	142
Overture	145
Bird-Watching Surprises	146
Settling In	151
Winter's Serenade	156
The Long Cold	157
Do-Nothing Day	162
This Land and I	164
Suddenly It's Spring!	167
To an Old Farm	172
List of Illustrations	175