

# Avocet

---

A Journal of Nature Poems



Winter 2011

## The New Pond

8

ducks, geese and rushes,  
a swan parceled up  
head wrapped in wing.  
ducks root in mud, and geese  
splash-land on the water.

on a post, a duck  
sits like an effigy watching  
the goose squadrons  
swim in regatta.

willows' long leaf-hair  
combs the shining surface  
and green algae scum reflects  
the shopping centre wall.

in Sinai's wilderness  
millennial marks record  
an ancient nomad's passing.

Norway's virgin forest,  
firs and pines and snow,  
is primal, untouched, pathless.

but here by the new pond  
trees are planted,  
rushes trained upright,  
paths swept, grass mowed,  
edges neatly clipped,

fallen leaves daily blown away,  
and never crackle underfoot.

North Carolina, 2006

Michael E. Stone  
Jerusalem, Israel  
stone.michael.e@gmail.com