

first drops of rain—  
puffs of dust  
rise from the infield



at the reception  
to open the haiku conference  
small talk

yard sale—  
a row of empty jars  
tinged slightly red

the sun just out—  
a pod of orcas  
leading the ferry

night crossing—  
salt spray rises  
up through the anchor hole

These poems previously appeared in the following journals and books: *Baseball Haiku* (New York: Norton, 2007), *Dogwood Blossoms, Evergreen* (Japan), *Fan, Frogpond, Gift: British Haiku Society Members' Anthology 2011* (Spalding, United Kingdom: British Haiku Society, 2011), *Haiku Canada Review* (Canada), *Haiku in English: The First Hundred Years* (New York: Norton, 2013), *Haiku Ireland* (Ireland), *Haiku Troubadours: A Contemporary World Haiku Anthology from Japan* (Fujimi, Japan: Ginyu Press, 2000), *The Heron's Nest, Hummingbird, Jiyu-Katagi [Free-Talking]: 20th Annual Ito En "Oi, Ocha!" New Haiku Contest Anthology* (Tokyo: Ito En, 2009), *Mariposa, Modern Haiku, Muttering Thunder* (online), *Ouachita Life, Past Time: Baseball Haiku* (Winchester, Virginia: Red Moon Press, 1999), *Pebbles, Reeds, Shamrock* (Ireland), *Take-Out Window: 2014 Haiku Society of America Members' Anthology* (New York: Haiku Society of America, 2014), *The Road: World Haiku* (Sofia, Bulgaria: Bulgarian Haiku Club, 2004), *The View from Here, Tidepools: Haiku On Gabriola* (Gabriola, British Columbia: Pacific-Rim Publishers, 2011), *Tug of the Current: The Red Moon Anthology of English-Language Haiku 2004* (Winchester, Virginia: Red Moon Press, 2005), and *Wab* (India). In addition, "first drops of rain" was incorporated into the lyrics of the song "Issa," on Jonah Eric Hsu's *Blackberry* CD in 2005; "the sun just out" was part of a renku, "Leading the Ferry," written with Alice Frampton in 2008; "forgetting the combination" was the 35th verse in "Pine Needle," a renku written at the 2009 Haiku Canada conference in Vancouver, British Columbia; "gently" was the 15th verse in "Gold Leaf," a renku written at the 2008 Haiku Canada conference in Ottawa, Ontario; "thunderclap" was the first verse in "Starlings Rush," a rengay written with Terry Ann Carter, that won an honourable mention in the 2013 Haiku Poets of Northern California Rengay Contest; "climbing" was the fourth verse in "Singing in the Rain," a rengay written with William Hart in 2013; "opening the orchid" won an honourable mention in the 2009 Ito En "Oi, Ocha!" New Haiku Contest (Japan) out of 13,129 English haiku submissions; and "all that's left" and "objects in mirror" first appeared in haiga by Gary LeBel. My gratitude to all the editors and publishers of these poems for sharing these sparrow songs.

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by Michael Dylan Welch

22230 NE 28th Place  
Sammamish, WA 98074-6408 USA

WelchM@aol.com  
www.graceguts.com  
www.nahaiwrmo.com



# Sparrow Songs

*Michael Dylan Welch*

all that's left  
of the old logging road  
the sparrow's song

opening the orchid  
a little bit wider,  
the weight of the bee

forgetting the combination  
to the garden shed . . .  
drifting blossoms

spring breeze—  
the pull of her hand  
as we near the pot store

rising and falling  
her voice  
while arranging flowers

foreclosure—  
a bee tips the dew  
out of a daisy

summer drought—  
a can of worms  
left on the dock

gently  
down the stream  
my paddle



midsummer—  
the road changes colour  
at the county line

thunderclap—  
starlings rush  
from the coast madrone

the hummingbird's sheen  
changes with the cloud—  
end of summer

morning chill—  
the bag of marbles  
shifts on the shelf

climbing  
every mountain  
aspen yellow

objects in mirror  
are closer than they appear—  
your hand on my thigh

missed bus . . .  
a little more  
of the autumn sunset

first snow—  
the velodrome lights  
still on