

CHARLIE SMITH

One Spell

now and again these redbirds,
cowbirds, flickers making
noise in the boxwoods, jasmine
trellis, thrushes and vireos
clambering in the straw, poking
out the eyes of children,
and bugs, waxwings, catbirds in
wax myrtle bushes, yaupons,
heart-wing sorrel plants in
cutover fields, warbler and oven
bird saying *teach-er, teach-er*,
nobody showing up for months,
mother drunk under the vines,
redstart and bobolink, lover
of hayfields and grasslands,
oriole hardly ever away
from the nest, mass migrations
of blackbirds & other seed eaters,
songbirds, all gone from here.