

## In March

Deer cleft feet descend cliffs  
to examine bull kelp on the foam-  
flecked sand beside rocky mussel beds  
where Oystercatchers probe  
red-eyed with crimson beaks  
for amphipods and worms.  
Pelagic Cormorants, white-rump bedecked  
purple and green-sheen feathers,  
nest-sit guarding a precipice ledge.  
Badgering neighbors feed via upwelling  
nutrients through plankton to fish.  
Cow whales each guard one calf  
hugging our mutual shore  
eluding orca droves seeking  
calf-tongue gore to eat.  
Ascending ruminants crop spring grass  
while Wild Turkey hens ignore  
red-white-and-blue-faced toms  
circling rival bronze plumage  
until one grabs a tongue  
forcing the other to squat defeated.  
Pecking order established,  
they feed - friends again in hen pursuit.  
No sheep grace our wind-swept  
bluffs: no lambs here.  
March enters and exits leonine.  
Mad hares race hatless  
below sun-brazened  
Red-shouldered Hawks.  
Anna's Hummingbirds scold  
offspring above rhododendrons.  
Trillium spangle redwoods  
where black chanterelles  
stretch lines from oaks.  
The Ides bring joy when  
Osprey return revived  
by their Chilean sojourn  
and pack fish lunches  
spiraling above our knoll  
where Turkey Vultures  
wobble ever scanning  
for carrion ravens cherish  
and nocturnal vixen glean.  
Sovereign nature's time

accelerates on dihedral wings  
may her cleaners wait  
for my bone flensing  
until a later March.