

# observations on an autumn day

*by* Kitty Boots

the ospreys have left  
remnants of stick nests dangle from trees

leathery egg cases from terrapins are still visible on the high tide  
line

I rescued babies during the last Nor'easter,  
struggling in the surf, egg yolks still attached  
moved them up to the estuary and crossed my fingers

the morning shadows are different  
and even as the day gives way to a cobalt sky  
the sun is slanted, weak

the mulberry tree is discharging yellow leaves,  
crimped and bordered with fungus  
the pines lay down a soft, brown carpet of needles

Guernsey lilies defy the drought and burst out of the ground like  
scarlet sparklers  
only female hummingbirds now and golden finches have changed  
suit to olive drab

a harvester sits in the middle of a corn field,  
a river of yellow kernels flow with the dust and haze

macho bucks in velvet defy you driving down the lane  
they'll need that bravado  
hunters are already running their hounds, driving deer onto the  
beach

time to wear orange

