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Curated by Tish Davis

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## **A cloud of blackbirds**

By Melissa Dennison  
Bradford, Yorkshire, England

I am standing with my pen poised to record but it's so quiet and still. It's often like this, a waiting game. The wait is becoming longer and longer. I am taking part in a citizen science project to document blackbird sightings. Climate change can seem like an abstraction or something that affects people a long way off, on the other side of the world, but it's not, it's right here on our doorstep.

in the trees  
only the sound  
of the wind

[Much-loved songbird threatened by mosquito-borne virus | BTO](#)  
[Mosquito-borne killer disease threatens blackbirds – BBC News](#)  
[Blackbirds in Gardens | BTO](#)

## Exponential

By Richard Grahn  
Evanston, Illinois USA

My muse has seduced me again.

*You're the Writer. You're the only one who can write it. It's your responsibility to write it—your duty!*

So, here I sit, fingers massaging keys that whisper letters and words—whispers spun into sentences, woven into paragraphs, loved into poems.

bearing gifts  
for a barren hillside—  
one sprouting seed  
swaddled in sheets  
of rain