

Red-winged blackbird spring song

by [Ann Struthers](#) in the [May 8, 2019](#) issue

safe in the swamp,  
tilting on reeds,  
wavy water shivers with song,  
air shimmers  
sliced by flight of yellow and red chevrons  
he perches on last year's cattails  
sings to the dowdy lady, hidden  
singing her lies  
she loves lies  
he has secrets  
she warms their secrets

Spring bursts, explodes in spangles  
what do they know  
care  
that winter always comes  
what do they care  
they are young, alive  
feathered, flying  
and he, singing lyrical lies.