

## Jesus Feeds the Birds

by [Tania Runyan](#) in the [August 2024](#) issue

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And it's not always pretty.

Those lilies clothed in Solomon's splendor  
splotch with the leftover tufts

of field mice. For every hummingbird  
darting at an orchid, every goldfinch  
nibbling a quivering primrose stalk,

is an osprey disemboweling a flounder  
or a golden eagle snapping  
a badger's neck midair. They do not

sow or heap seed heads in barns.

They swoop and pluck  
in the moment, just as their meals

suddenly find themselves  
sliding down a gullet. Of course I can't  
forget them, the ragged spirits of prey,

the grains and spores that never  
had a chance to germinate. The dead  
scamper and bloom in the shadow

of my wings, spreading and trailing  
in a train of many colors, and oh,  
the conversations we have.