



BIRDS

behind frosted glass

grief shape

43

the finger tracing laterally

across the back of a mirror as you might, walking down a street

let your fingertip trail along the pane

waist high the birds dissolve

brief lake

in the window of

reflect thereon. Therefore the

reflected sun. The wound in my hand

aches in weather, all weather, tattooed all

the way up to the elbow. Now it's winter. Birds cross in soft Vs, swift

signs in ice. The people pointing, though some of them, actually, are waving.

BIRDS

44 You'll need  
thousands of hands. Splay  
was first every finger  
split, dispersed; a bone  
can be  
                  feathered this thousand  
driven hollow  
                  into flock  
                  of all things numbered  
one through one-hundred. Never was so  
asunder etc. so I  
closed the window. He shuffled the cards. Something frightened  
everything on the street.

#### ADVANCES IN THE FORM

The latest work in shadow puppets is being done on verbs. Make the form of a soar, of a veer. Make the tense clear. Distinguish the past perfect from the simple past. Neither was. And on into conditionals. Would have found, etc. Would have gone myself, but I wasn't home. Birdwatchers often use sign language because, though birds are fond of the human voice, they are downright hypnotized by the swaying hands and will walk right into them.