

BLACK AND BLIND

leathery wings
swooping overhead
at tree top height
just after dusk

sonar keeps them
from crashing into trees
or the eaves of the roof

flight is rapid,
jerky, erratic
like tinfoil
in an electromagnetic
storm

they dive bomb, appear
to anyway, but
it's only insects
they're after, not us.
people attract bugs
and bugs attract
them

dry papery wings
right after sunset
like clockwork, 9:15
or so every
evening

I like these bats.
more real,
mysterious
than any sparrow.

people in livingrooms
in front of tvs
don't even know
they're out here

black wings
too fast to see clearly
but you sense what
they are
immediately

no bird has
much mystery.

AFTER THE BIG EARTH-

quake yesterday a.m.,
my daughter
walked all over
downtown,
finding proud new
cracks
everywhere
in the pavement,
and work crews hurrying to
patch them all
up.