



THERMALLING

On Whitehorse Mountain
among goldenrods humming bees
oaks rustling choruses of September
I dwell on kettling hawks

This is Broad-wing day
Hundreds of Broad-wings tiering up
from the north ridge
smoke signals of the Iroquois

High above, the wing tip of one
pirouetting under another's primaries
For a moment-mobiles
Sliding off they are curves
under hawks circling
under arcs of more raptors
all ascending and sweeping downridge
motions of earth and planets around the sun

Maxwell Corydon Wheat, Jr.