

Zenith

Our National Bird Icon Down in Utah

Hundreds of majestic bald eagles fly
with wing spans of seven feet or more
to gather winters at Great Salt Lake.
Something's causing these raptors to die
becoming endangered species like before.
What new measures must we take?

Hunters and farmers find them on the ground
listless, with seizures, tremors, paralysis.
Scientists puzzled—avian flu
from eating eared grebes? They found
no poisons, wounds, virus, encephalitis.
Confounded, what can caretakers do?

Hissing, clawing, scooped in net
the eagles are probed before demise.
Wildlife officials saddened by mystery.
What answers will we get?
What lessons learned by the wise
and what effect on our history?

Graceful creature with shaky white head,
dark body enfeebled like nation.
White supremacy faces changes.
As eagles we struggle, consider instead
a diverse country with equal ration
to soar wherever an eagle ranges.

Zenith created by Viola Berg

1. Meter and line length left to the poet.
2. Six line stanzas or sixains.
3. Rhyme Scheme: a-b-c-a-b-c; d-e-f-d-e-f