
POETRY

SURVIVAL

Partridges
Pocketed in bluish snow
Uneasy at my coming
Take sudden wing
Cackling alarm notes
Fluttering noisily
Then falling into low formation
Sail in graceful arch-winged curves
(Silent airships, rusty-red, in missiled flight)
To snowy cover elsewhere

- *Victor C. Friesen*, Box 65, Rosthern, SK S0K 3R0

MONARCH LANTERNS

Sometime in September
as I drove west in
mid-afternoon sunshine
rattling down a gravel road
in search of grouse habitat
I found the roadsides strangely
marked at intervals with
glowing sunlit bouquets
radiant bursting milkweed pods
releasing silken seed showers
monarch butterfly food source
lighting the way, I thought
for those continental migrants.

Two cold months later
looking for snowy owls
down from northern lands
I walked through snow
to gather some of those empty pods
bringing you a winter bouquet
birdlike hollow husks on erect stalks
twisted dry silvery-grey cusps
thrumming in the wind.

- *Robert W. Nero*, 546 Coventry Road, Winnipeg, MB R3R 1B6