

By way of introduction

When writing verse on birds I try
to praise my subject to the sky;
and yet I feel we could do worse
than sing their praise in comic verse.
I hope each poem's a condensation
of many hours of observation,
as true to life as I can make it.
Judge for yourselves, or call me glaikit.
Of course the verse must rhyme and scan,
but in addition, where I can,
I try to draw some deeper truth,
perhaps of nature red in tooth
and claw; or maybe represent
some threat to the environment;
but most important – birds are fun,
and so I like to make a pun,
and, when the subject is well known,
to give you all a chance to groan
at rhymes admittedly absurd
on comic aspects of the bird.
So for your private predilection
I offer these portraits, with affection.