

LISA ALLEN ORTIZ

The Beginner's Guide to Birding

Western King Bird. Could also be
Ash-Throated Flycatcher. I search
the window sash, in meadows, along riverbanks.

I was blind before. I was alone.
Splayed around me, guidebooks illustrate
what I think I saw.

At the river, Jesus bugs break the surface.
From the marsh rise flocks in purple swaths. I write
notes on eye rings and wing length.

Rubber boots, field glasses—I search branches,
and grasses—flutter stories, glimmer shame.
In my notebook I keep all the names.

Perching birds, Nightjars, Swifts.
I was blind before. I was alone.
Spotted Towhee. Dusky Warbler.

Sorrow oh sorrow stop
calling my name. Courage
come nest in my eaves.

The poems of **Lisa Allen Ortiz** have been included in *ZYZZYVA*, *The Literary Review*, *Crab Creek Review*, and the anthology *Best New Poets 2013*. Two chapbooks of her poems are available: *Turns Out* (Main Street Rag) and *Self Portrait as a Clock* (Finishing Line Press). Although she considers Santa Cruz, California her home, she currently lives in Cuzco, Peru with her husband and two daughters.

CATIE O'LEARY

Untitled (jars), 2011
collage with antique engravings, 8.5 x 12 in



courtesy the artist