

STEPHEN MALIN

Hunt Club

They'd bought Canadian gosling
chicks to raise as decoys, but when
live-bird lures became unlawful,
the sportsmen termed them feral
and left them to forage local farms.

Surviving birds, elderless, unled
from incubated hatchling days,
came with autumn to know their
untamed blood in its surpassing
urge to seek in height what wing
to follow, so soon among the hard-
frost dawns their arrow headed off,
only to return the same forenoon.
The next day too returned them early.

Thus their pattern, wedged in flight
as in fixation, sometimes even
three of these unmigrations rounded
in a day, their cleaving quest for years
not piercing more than county skies.