

American Nightingale

The American Nightingale, so misnamed
because like his Euro namesake
he sings day and night in breeding season.
Mockingbird by any other name
whose music is an excellent plagiarism
with occasional riffs of his own thrown into the mix.

Mimos polyglottos, a master mimic
of other species songs and odd notes
he strings together in seamless whistlings,
his genius the putting it all together at length,
hardly a break between sunup and sundown
except when with a flash of white wing patches

he flies to the highest branches of my pear tree,
helping himself to the fruits of my labor.