

## Junco hyemalis

*Justin Evans*

foretelling arrival of winter  
the bird begins      to gather debris

for her nest      cold months ahead  
suggest a lifeless season always

life beneath the surface for  
anyone      who wants to

look long enough      this is  
how the world learns to begin anew

how the heart      heals itself  
standing up and walking

digging deep      for warm lodging  
a windbreak against Cailleach

harbinger      of faith  
a righteous messenger

brought forth      to announce  
a bright beginning

renewal      each slight shift  
of the pear tree's branch