

George Held

June Haying on Dog Hill Road

(Maryland, NY)

I awake to hum of tractor
Sunday morning. The farmer's
Mowing the field, making hay.

Yesterday two bobolinks
Flew round their nest in the middle
Of this field. As the farmer's

Oval rounds close in
On mid-field, the bobolinks
Dart in opposite directions,

Instinct for diversion matched
Against inexorable tractor.
What about nest, eggs, chicks?

The farmer's no villain;
His horses need hay. *Haying's*
Natural as nesting in a hayfield,

I reckon, and turn away
from the window, tractor motor
drowning out bird cries.

A seven-time Pushcart Prize nominee, **George Held** publishes widely both online and in print. His most recent books, both 2013, are *Neighbors Too*, a sequel to his illustrated book of animal poems for children, and *Culling: New & Selected Nature Poems*, which includes two poems first published in *Muddy River Poetry Review*.