

Tom Montag

If You Are the Hawk

you must expect to be alone.
Friendship is a lovely thing

yet hunger is too terrible.
You can wish for wind to

carry you, for sun to shine
off the fur of small creatures

moving in the grasses, for
silence in the high places.

But friends? Ah, friend,
that's a tricky matter.

Tom Montag, Fairwater, Wisconsin, is most recently the author of *In This Place: Selected Poems 1982-2013* (a finalist for the Midwest Independent Publishers Association' award for books of poetry published in 2014). In 2015 he was the featured poet at *Atticus Review* (April) and *Contemporary American Voices* (August). Other recent poems will be found at *Blue Heron Review*, *The Blue Hour*, *Hamilton Stone Review*, *The Homestead Review*, *Little Patuxent Review*, *Mud Season Review*, *Poetry Quarterly*, *Sand*, *Third Wednesday*, *Town Creek Poetry*, *Wilderness House Literary Review*, and other journals. He blogs as The Middlewesterner and serves as Managing Editor of the Lorine Niedecker Monograph Series, *What Region?*