

two birds with one stone

two birds meet the hunting dogs-
two birds meet the barrel of a gun -
two birds

of a feather meet an extinction
event. passenger pigeon, mourning dove,

["passenger" from the french *passager*,
meaning 'to pass by' in a fleeting manner]

so similar it's hard to tell the difference until they sing,
the wild pigeon talking always loud-voiced, too harsh, too unmusical.

[in 1876, thousands of these pigeons were held in large pens,
though many fretted themselves to death, and rotted away before they could be sold]

listen carefully: which one sounds like an endling?
which one is keening for its home?

[endling: the last of a species, a terminarch.
philopatry: the tendency to stay in or habitually return
to a specific area, from the greek 'home-loving']

where is home? where do you watch the sun set?
where do you return to, over and over again?

[a group of vultures, feeding, is called
a *wake*]

creatures, all of us, wearing our habits on our sleeves,
waking.