

1972

# Today

Greg Kuzma

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## T O D A Y

Today there were seven scarecrows  
in the fields when I went by  
tomorrow there will be eleven  
it is surprising how scarecrows collect scarecrows  
how birds stay on the wing  
the corn grows high

the corn grows high in the fields

Today there were five letters to answer  
each with his separate mouth open to be fed  
and I was busy with the chores  
the garden was growing and soon the marigolds  
will bloom  
and my wife's in her eighth month

the woman is in her eighth month

Tomorrow the dangerous signs of today  
will wash out of the sickly clothes  
I wear today in anxiety  
cats who are lost for years will come back  
to lie on our porches  
and we will be good to each other again  
as we once were

cats will be new again on the porches