

A CATALOGUE OF LIFE

our camera traps a fox in the field and we record it
then we don't see a rabbit for a week
and this, too, we register, in our bodies this time
our bodies that never stop processing data
like rainworms digesting earth

slowly we establish a connection
we point at the thin lines between fox and rabbit
and say: there. there.
we discover that they drink the same water
and visit the same tree - a tree that we, too,
have visited on occasion
through the empty grass we start to see the rabbit
then through the rabbit we see the fox

in our own tongue we participate
in the great conversation
we speak of BATs, vleermuizen or pipistrelli
but if noone hears our voice our knowledge will be lost
our footprints erased by the sand

nature's directive is always about growth
and so we learn to move from being a spider
to being a node in its web
weaving the threads together
until what we thought was separate
living in its own peculiar world
starts singing in tune with the others
until what we thought was separate becomes a we
a we with a delicate skin and wobbly legs
depending on a community to raise it

but a we that will be singing a song we all know
a song that contains all of our voices
and soon we will be able to record it for the first time
so that it can fill the space between rabbit and fox