

THE BIRD SONG by Scowie

Tell me not what the lawyer says
For all his words are folly
But tell me what the dunnock says
In amongst the holly

Tell me not what the doctor says
For death in the end shall beat him
But tell me all the thrushes words
In his repeated greeting.

Tell me not what the judges say
For all their words are doleful
But give to me the blackbirds song
Rich heart-warming and soulful

Tell me not what the scholars say
I tire of men of letters
But solve for me the wren's song
For me it owns no betters

Tell me not what the cleric says
Pontificating daily
I ask but of the linnets song
Why does he sing so gaily

Tell me not what the soldiers say
All his is war and fighting
But sound for me the skylarks song
As dawn of day is lighting

Tell me not what the fool says
His words are ten a penny
Explain to me the cuckoos call
And then i want need any

Tell me what the birds all say
Then let them sing all glorious
The nightingale shall lead their song
The missle thrush the chorus