

# The Oval

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Volume 15  
Issue 2 *Staff Issue*

Article 25

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5-15-2022

## Body, No Longer

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### Recommended Citation

Taylor, Jade (2022) "Body, No Longer," *The Oval*: Vol. 15: Iss. 2, Article 25.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/oval/vol15/iss2/25>

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***BODY, NO LONGER***

Jade Taylor

The process is simple:

wrap a wooden dowel in strips of cotton; skin  
the robin, saving feathers, beak, the idea

they suggest; place the body, no longer  
a bird, over the cotton-wrapped dowel; tag date,  
location, species neatly to their feet; translate

robins from flight to a drawer  
among many drawers; redraw a noiseless flock of red  
-breasted birds as life-like as drawers will permit.

Use the mistaken robin that flew into the east  
facing window, falling stone-like into the window  
box, or the one the cat killed and left untouched

on the lawn; the one pulled from the front of a car;  
the small ones blown from their nest beneath  
the deck. They're all viable specimens I place

side by side in a drawer. I remember past the point  
of death. I keep the best, the undamaged,  
the nonperishable. I foster specimens

in memory. On my phone, I keep a video  
I can't watch: your laughing body

in leopard-print pajamas,  
at my house,  
a Sunday,  
8:35 pm, nearly  
a year ago in May,

no longer beating against the glass  
drawers I close again, again, and again.