

Photo by © Mia McPherson.

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Bombyx, an ancient Greek and Latin term cognate with “silk” and “silk worm,” finds itself now united to the *cilla* diminutive, so that the genus name translates to something like “sweet little silky” (Holloway 2003). The Mexican common name, *Chinito*, also carries this sense of sweetness.

And sweet they are, at least to each other! The attentiveness birders cultivate reaps rewards when we witness members of a Cedar Waxwing flock cooperate, calling each other to profusions of fruit, even passing berries between birds—as Tony Fitzpatrick’s representation of them illustrates. As an early 20th-century writer gushed in admiration, “We can only wish that our own society displayed more members as creditable to our order as is the courteous cedar bird in his engaging sphere” (Chapin 1921). However courteous they may seem, Cedar Waxwings know no limits when it comes to their favorite fruits. They will satiate themselves to a stupefaction which resembles intoxication. In harmony with Rūmī, they find a mystical oneness in the source of all berries, loving to excess, becoming “drunk with the wine that Love has engraved on His



glass” or metaphoric cedar (Alexander 2019).

Watch as Cedar Waxwings descend on a berry tree. Their collective delight is conta-

gious to the human birder; as the birds gorge themselves, their collective stupor is contagiously entertaining. It is here that the philo-

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