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## Bird Hide

Rose van Son

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ROSE VAN SON

**Bird Hide**

*Parry Lagoons Nature Reserve*

(comb-crested Jacana: *irediparra gallinacea*)

we drive a stony path, trail Telegraph Hill  
pass another boab until we find  
the hide, ramping it to see a brolga  
waiting for her picture to be taken  
mazed in lagoon's storied light

Marlgu sanctioned waterlilies, billabong lipped  
flowers cream, some deep, deep pink  
where egrets, magpie geese, finches, too  
*all manner of waders*  
feed on evening light

but it was the lotus bird, that floating Jacana  
picking her way on fine legs to walk on water  
stepping from one waterlily to another  
pecking seeds on the belly of the flower's great leaf  
that left us mouthing *more!*

*we could have watched for hours, such a poise*  
photographing her crested-comb, the waders  
and her kind, starring step-by-step  
feeding in reflective light  
the birds seemingly unaware-  
our awe, our eyes, slit  
hide to see

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*floodplain*

*the day encroaching night*

*the wet a season away*