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
floodplain
the day encroaching night
the wet a season away