

BEWARE OF SHELTERING WINGS

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"Those who need-to-help need the helpless, and even more so than even their most wretched beneficiaries need them. So while the congenital helper will always offer a hand to the fellow flat out on the ground, the intention is usually just to bring him to his knees."

--Hippokrites

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Protectors
are odd birds
predators
very dangerous
to travellers.

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Alas identification is difficult

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since there are many species
subspecies
varieties

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mutations

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and they change their colours
depending on the season
political climate
immediate surroundings

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Their range . is extensive
though they do favour borderlands
really thrive at the edge . of aspiration.

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One will often see them perched on fences
and they manifest a marked preference
for barbed wire
high towers
barricades.

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When they move about
(which is rarely)

they fly low.

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Zoologists report their vital signs
include:

Yield . No Exit . Stop.

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They are most easily recognized
by their call, their song of desire,

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by their desire

to do things

for-your-own-good . for-your-own-good

by their desire

to-help . too-wit . to-help . to-help

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by their desire

their insatiable

irrepressible

repressed desire.

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Deceptive

in their seeming docility

the knowledgeable traveller

never tries to tame them

knowing full well

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who will

end up eating

from whose hand

.

who will

end up with a cage

to call home.

From *Advice to Travellers* – Ken Stange ([Penumbra Press](#), 1994)