

Martin Robertson

Bat

Honour's due to the bat.
Before the hang-glider
(daring it earlier and much more skilfully)
here's one mammal that
took off into the air,
taught itself to fly,
fly properly like a bird.

Twittering light-scared thing,
blind but unfalteringly
aware of its black way,
out from its hide-out, in,
giving obstacles space,
sensitive certainty.
Honour this radar, this
contrived effective wing.