

What a wondrous experience
to sit at the edge of a salt marsh
and hold a beautiful little mouse,
small and docile, soft and shy.
Why worry about such a mouse
when markets are low and gas is high?
It matters because when species disappear
they disappear forever and we have less.
I've worked to save this little mouse
so that in the future there will be
marshes down at the edge of the Bay
and in them salt marsh harvest mice,
little mice that have a right to be there
no matter how small or hidden from sight.
You'd understand if you could see one
in a salt marsh in dawn's early light.

- Howard Shellhamer