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Cardinal

Sidney Wade

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Sidney Wade

Cardinal

His head
isn't red,

it's black
as a scalded

sinner.
He's bald

and pitiful,
but brave,

as he picks
at his seeds

from the eminence
of the feeder,

a shaved
and wincing

avian prince
at his dinner.

What turns
a song-bird

vulturine?
cap too tight?

territorial fight?
a terrible flaw

in the grand design?
A cuckoo pope?

Nope.
Feather mites.