Monet's Magpie

By Alan Mansell

"It's behind you!"
At this time of year
I often shout out.
You sit solitary
on the gate of a drift-drowned wattle fence.
Fair-weather friends have flown
to warm, far-off lands
in fear of the frozen fields.
You need help.
As I move closer
you ask of me
"Where is the shiny bauble?"
The long winter shadows stretch out in front of you.
"Where is the shiny bauble?"
You ask of me
as I move closer.
You need help.
In fear of the frozen fields
to warm, far-off lands
fair-weather friends have flown.
On the gate of a drift-drowned wattle fence
you sit solitary.
I often shout out
at this time of year.
"It's behind you!"

Note: The Magpie is a Claude Monet snowscape. This seasonal image is sometimes used on Christmas cards. See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Magpie_(Monet)

Magpies are adaptable and common throughout much of the UK.