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Broken October

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Broken October

Crossing Squaw Creek Bridge,
I count petals on the railtrail route
where a monarch lingers by a bee,
and a blue heron stirs a prayer.

In the grasshopper's grotto
a garter snake basks while
two geese pause and preen
on a sandbar rising from the water.

How long until I see again
a white crane wade,
a red finch sashay, a woolly
bear caterpillar loiter?

Back to autumn's natural hush,
back to amber and topaz,
back to dried corn husk.
Through a camouflage of leaves

a dapple of light caresses a rabbit carcass.

Laura Sweeney

LAURA SWEENEY facilitates Writers for Life in central Iowa. She represented the Iowa Arts Council at the first International Teaching Artist Conference in Oslo, Norway. Her recent and forthcoming poems appear in *Folia*, *Wordrunner eChapbook*, *Yellow Chair Review*, *One Sentence Poems*, *Red Savina Review*, *Main Street Rag*, *Canadian Woman Studies*, *Midwest Review*, *Aji*, *Mobius*, and the anthologies *Nuclear Impact* and *Beer, Wine, & Spirits*. She is associate editor for *Eastern Iowa Review*.