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Metabolism

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Libby A. Durbin

Metabolism

The thickets shake
 with kinglets
they appear in a flock
between squalls
 the males
keep their ruby intentions
to themselves
 under cover
small enough to rest
in my hand
 they never rest
smaller than elderberry leaves
the same olive-green
 their flit-choreography
twirl of unattached leaves
alive to every windshift
 tumbling
back onto the branches
film in reverse
 they inspect
all in less than a minute
have to keep moving
 they're gone
flywheels ticking away.