



# Extirpation

Who planned this reservation?  
Who plotted out its straight, unnatural edge?  
The border, not a river or crest—  
a line drawn once, firmly, with a ruler.

No one taught this history in our school.  
No child asked the question. I inherited  
the surveyor's answer, complete  
with missing birds, catalog of avians

no longer seen within the territory:  
Night Heron, Marsh Wren. Not extinct—

extirpated. These birds follow water.  
They have no reason to visit anymore.