Predicaments

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Dawn

On a limb across the street
some unidentifiable bird
keeps wheezing

—wheezing

the way the air conditioner might
every time you think you’ve fixed it
and switch it back on, the odor
thick, electric

—no, wheezing

like a child you’ve lain with all night,
her forehead still hot to the wrist.

The bird wheezes

but no wheeze responds

and you keep listening, hoping
the next wheeze is the first note
of glee.

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