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The Ivory-Billed Woodpecker

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The Ivory-Billed Woodpecker

Gone with the disappearance of virgin sweet gum
and oaks of Louisiana, hauled by wagon and rail,
dark heartwoods saved for fine furniture, second-rate
shipped north for the war. When the lumber companies
finished, there was little but a tangle of vines,
mud, islands of passed-over hackberry, and the last
ivory-billed woodpecker. I saw her in Mack's Bayou—
head darting from the roost, glossy, blue-black,
amber eyes staring back, crest swept forward
in defiance, white beak chiseling the only cypress
left in that swamp.

Francis Lunnery

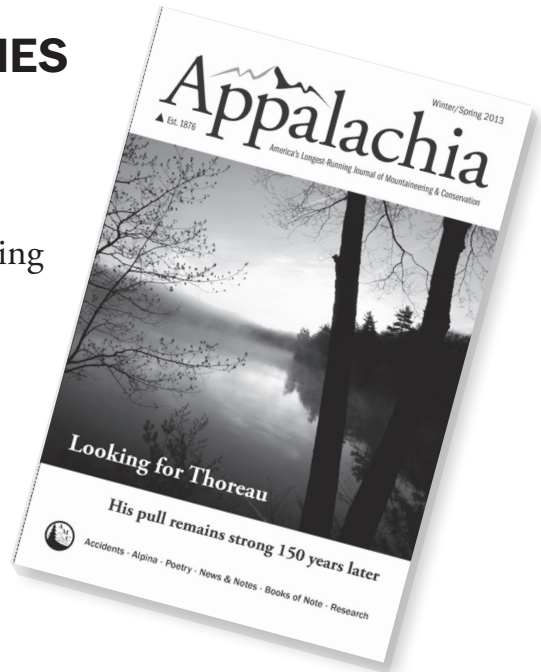
FRANCIS LUNNEY began writing poetry while a graduate student at the University of New Hampshire. His poems have appeared in *The Owen Wister Review* and *Outside Bozeman* magazine. He works as an elementary school reading specialist.

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