

Appalachia

Volume 63
Number 1 *Winter/Spring 2012: The Great
Eastern Alpine Zone*

Article 24

2012

For Now

Ann Taylor

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.dartmouth.edu/appalachia>



Part of the [Poetry Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Taylor, Ann (2012) "For Now," *Appalachia*: Vol. 63: No. 1, Article 24.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.dartmouth.edu/appalachia/vol63/iss1/24>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by Dartmouth Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Appalachia by an authorized editor of Dartmouth Digital Commons. For more information, please contact dartmouthdigitalcommons@groups.dartmouth.edu.

For Now

they merge with waves, hundreds
of Canada Geese lifting, disappearing with gusts
that streak a blue sky black, test the old oak's
foothold at the pond's edge,
whirr through firs in the dry air.

New ice allows no carp to leap,
no painted turtle to sun along the fallen trunk,
no snake to test the trail.

All color gone, leaves spiral back
upwards, chickadees call across great distances.

A single cormorant claims the cove
where summer swans once nested in down,
left deep imprints in tall grass,
all leveled now in frozen flatness.

Harp-strings of ice laced straight
over the dam surprise me, as does my effort
to listen to their soft tones, and to hear them.

Ann Taylor

ANN TAYLOR teaches poetry at Salem State College, in Salem, Massachusetts. Her collection of personal essays, *Watching Birds: Reflections on the Wing* (Ragged Mountain/McGraw Hill), appeared in 1999. She has poems published or forthcoming in *Arion*, *The Aureorean*, *Ellipsis*, *The Dalhousie Review*, *Snowy Egret*, and *Classical and Modern Literature*. She lives in Woburn, Massachusetts, with her husband, Francis Blessington.

"I started reading Appalachia for the accident reports, but I kept reading for the great features."—Mohamed Ellozy, subscriber

SUPPORT THE STORIES YOU LOVE!

Start or renew your *Appalachia* subscription today, and keep reading America's longest-running journal of mountaineering and conservation.

Visit **outdoors.org/appalachia** for a special offer: 36% off the journal's cover price. That's three years of *Appalachia* (6 issues) for only \$42. Or choose a one-year subscription (2 issues) for \$18—18% off the cover price.



Inside every issue, you'll find:

- inspired writing on mountain exploration, adventurers, ecology, and conservation
- up-to-date news and notes on international expeditions
- analysis of recent Northeastern mountaineering accidents
- book reviews, poetry, and much more

Subscribe today at **outdoors.org/appalachia** or call 800-372-1758.



Subscription prices valid as of June 2022. Prices and offers subject to change without notice. For the most up-to-date information, visit outdoors.org.