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For Now

Ann Taylor

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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

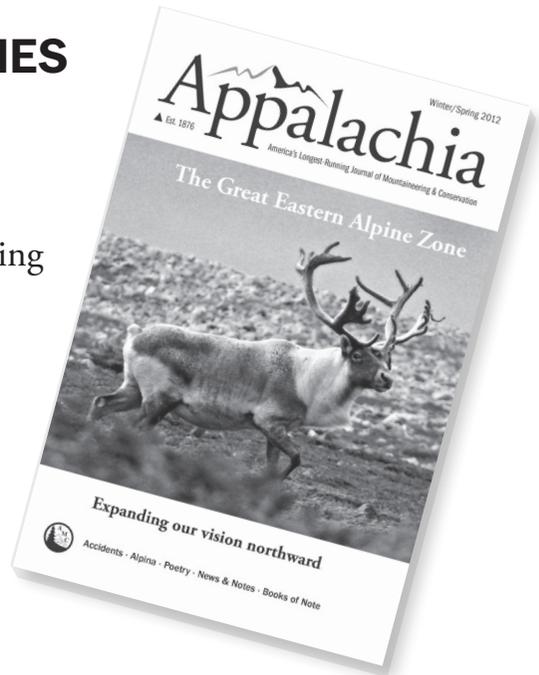
ANN TAYLOR teaches poetry at Salem State College, in Salem, Massachusetts. Her collection of personal essays, *Watching Birds: Reflections on the Wing* (Ragged Mountain/McGraw Hill), appeared in 1999. She has poems published or forthcoming in *Arion*, *The Aureorean*, *Ellipsis*, *The Dalhousie Review*,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

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