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Pileated Woodpecker, Audubon Plate CXI

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Pileated Woodpecker, Audubon Plate CXI

There can be joy after the first frost,
 like the drunk sent by raccoon grapes
 and the air now thinner

 so our calls lift out of this hollow

 and into the next,
 which could be a metaphor for death,

yet,

because of all the trees we've burrowed,
 slept in the chests we've drilled,

we know this death will come to us
on a south-facing slope
with all the shadows
we've ever sent

 now dried
 on grape vines.

Noah Davis

NOAH DAVIS's poetry collection *Of This River* was selected by George Ella Lyon for the 2019 Wheelbarrow Emerging Poet Book Prize from Michigan State University's Center for Poetry. Davis's poems and prose have appeared in *The Sun*, *Southern Humanities Review*, *Best New Poets*, *Orion*, *The Year's Best Sports Writing*, *North American Review*, and *River Teeth*. Davis earned an MFA from Indiana University and now lives with his wife, Nikea, in Missoula, Montana.

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