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Sandhill Cranes

Karen Kuchar

For the last few weeks,
the warbling
 of the sandhill cranes
 has caught my ear
 I scan the sky to see
their imperfect Vee
 stretched across the blue
 headed southeast
Sometimes stragglers
 form an addendum
A whooping crane
 tags along at the end of the line
 white wings tinged with black
 she stands out in the gray flock
Easing her migration by mutual agreement

I have heard them before
 In other seasons
But not with this frequency
 Nor with this sense of awe

I hear more whispers and trills,
 I spot the hawk perched in the tree
 As he scans the yard
 Watches the birdfeeder
I wander the yard
 Cut late fall bouquets
 Of drying hydrangea blossoms
 And russet leaves.

I am slower,
 And slowed
 by wonder.