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## Cormorant

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## Cormorant

You stand steadfast when I arrive. Perched  
high above the river on overhead wires,  
your black backs lustrous, heads alert to  
any change of current below. You cling,  
more patient than I could ever be waiting

in some interminable line to eat, and survey  
the shifting current below. Sea crow  
they call you, but there is nothing  
of the common cawing backyard tyrant  
in you. As still and sure as the prow

of a ship ready to launch, the sea  
is yours. When you choose, you ride  
the pulsing rush of waves, low  
to the water, throb of drops against  
webbed feet. Then you dive—straight,

swift. Rise with fish flicking in your beak.  
Back on the wire with your fellows,  
you spread your wings, preen. Balance  
between river and sky, consider me  
insignificant with your aqua marine eyes.