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## Abandon

Ben Mitchell

*Grand Valley State University*

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BEN MITCHELL

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## Abandon

The axe sunk in the fence post is rusted.  
I should take it in. But  
it is so graceful, useless there:  
fine sad streaks of bronze against its green paint,  
the wood grain clenched around the blade  
like bodies folded one on top another,  
the handle rising up and away in its near-tender calm.  
Maybe it's easier to leave these small things alone.  
Habit, beauty.  
Sometimes a finch or swallow sits stiff  
and handsome on the handle.  
And I like that.