

## American Naturalist #1

The American Naturalist sent me a note in cursive. He said go to Century Wood Products where the roads devolve from concrete into gravel, to "Thirteenth Line". He said the American elm survived the first apocalypse. So much left we could sample from stained or unstained shades. So much barn we could rejoice at the sight of American crows perched on a pole, a once northeastern tree, afield, anonymous, cold. And praise the industrial cows, the industrial grain, and the decrepit barns made of endangered elm. Fourteen hundred dollars' worth I ordered, and he said no worries and added the goods and services tax, his signature economical as a live edge.

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The American Naturalist wanted a reply. *Welcome to the Editorial Manager. Please log in. Please select as many classifications as you feel covers your interests.* But I was on the way to Marsville, to a rotated red bird's eye on an electronic map. Through the window I saw a farm where reproduction rose, a black jagged line towards the ordinate. Towards *day butter* futures. *Cash-settled butter. Electronic wheat calendar swap. Composite hard red winter wheat. Live cattle side by side. Nonfat dry milk. International soybean.* I threw an apple core into the stock exchange, the native material of the land, the dirt below.

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Browning. No complete death. The same letter expressed in the gut. In triplicate. From the Himalayas to North American towns, unfortunately a lifestyle: a four-year old daughter, double-headed razor blades coated with gold, a mortar and pestle, sexual incompatibility, red/black/green colour scheme, volcano plots, their endemic bodies, the sealing wax which opens a door, a strategy in the field, an elm library constructed from pandemic elm. Dwell time: Oakville, Mississauga, more false positives. Subtractive, upregulated, inoculated. Collectively referred to here as New Harmony. Marked with an asterisk means noteworthy\* and forests.

\* The last stanza is a found poem from the cut-up text of Sherif, S. M. *et al.* Simultaneous induction of jasmonic acid and disease-responsive genes signifies tolerance of American elm to Dutch elm disease. *Sci. Rep.* 6, 21934; doi: 10.1038/srep21934 (2016).

\* “American Naturalist #1” was previously published in Hamilton Arts & Letters (2016/2017): 9.2.