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Such a Hoot

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Such a Hoot

SUCH A HOOT

One day you walk out the back gate and leave it unlatched

you do not mean to
you've been so careful not to let the uninvited in
your beloved charges out

into the public alley
into the interstices of your neighborhood
into January's gaining light

beyond city limits
do the iced-up spots of prairie creeks fascinate you?
do you wonder when
they shall be released

into willow shoots
into those lovely white buds
you always meant to get the name-of-
linger in the sand hills?

for the coming of the cranes
stand knee high in the waters
hoot into last year's corn fields.