

Oregon 1979

A Wrack of Eagles

A wrack of eagles washed up
among rotting refrigerators
and tattered trousers
outside Bend, Oregon,
on Highway 20,
before Horse Pass,
beneath the sign describing
a prehistoric river.

Three eagles rot
in a twisted heap
among the Schlitz,
Magnavox and maggots
on a bone-littered cliff
overlooking the prehistoric river.

Great carcasses,
wrenched from flight,
flung among small monuments
of mediocrity,
with tearing beaks,
powerless as rusty church-keys
before the flood
of humanity,
sprawl below the road
above the prehistoric river.

