

## WELCOME TO THE TRANSVERSE

E.F. Schraeder

Swimming, glistening, and crossing,  
we came from a distant star  
wearing feathers so blue they sting the eyes.

Yes, feathered gills. Both and—  
beyond. We transcend.  
Limited bodies tickle and thrill.

Human life so shrill and salted,  
moving in a cell-locked body.  
We've been here longer than you know,

slinking through the hollows.  
You won't admit that, of course,  
so fond of erasing presences

hard to recognize, to categorize.  
Arguments against our existence  
have holes so large they're hard to detect.

Yet we were here, watching humanity trample  
the earth, snuff life like cigarette butts,  
erase anything divergent, delicate, or beautiful.

This life you'd rather ignore  
remains more complex  
than two myopic eyes discern.

We simmer like bonfires on the horizon.  
Unaccustomed to limits, we welcome all life.  
We've come to remind you of wholeness.