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The Leaf

Ben Tibbs

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THE LEAF

Out of the woods
into a clearing,
I approach a dead tree,
its single, crinkled leaf
hanging like an adjective.

A nailed, white sign
mars the trunk,
warning trespassers
of impending
action by law.

Three sparrows flit
over the bare, gray limbs,
chirping my acquittal.

Ben Tibbs