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## Phasianus Colchicus

Poems  
by  
doctors

Stephen Wilson

It was too late to brake, impossible to swerve –  
what bird-brained philosophy made it plod on  
oblivious, as if it had its mind on higher things  
and wasn't to be disturbed? Bottle-green head,  
cheeks wattled red, neck stretched forward  
like it was pulling against a leash,  
turning an indifferent eye, deaf ear to my horn.  
It was one of those times when the future  
is suddenly certain, or there is no future,  
when there's nothing to do but hold course –  
and I thought of you on a strange road  
leaning into a bend, that day a pheasant  
from nowhere flew across your front wheel;  
and felt like some avenging angel.

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