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Storying Ecocenes



Field Recording #2

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Field Recording #2

by Jada Ach



About the Author

Jada Ach is an Associate Teaching Professor of Applied Humanities and Interdisciplinary Studies at Arizona State University. She is the author of *Sand, Water, Salt: Managing the Elements in Literature of the American West, 1880-1925* (TTU Press, 2021) and co-editor of *Reading Aridity in Western American Literature* (Lexington Books, 2020). Jada is currently co-editing an essay collection with Kristen Brown titled *Land Management in North American Literature and Culture: From Resource to Reciprocity* (Routledge, forthcoming in 2026).

Field Recording #2

Jada Ach

So many dead birds in Phoenix this summer,
but they don't scare me like the dying ones do.

Outside of T.J. Maxx
a woman scoops up an injured pigeon
and carries it to her car.
She drives it to people
who know how to do something.

When does a person become
the person
who bends and cups a bird?

There's gator, shadow of gator, quiet brackish water—
hard to know the difference.

Maybe music scuttles under the mattress
like a tender, hungry bedbug
and suddenly
you ladle, letting it come to you.
The water arrives simply,
ready to be carried.