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Hughes, Holly, Chaudhuri, Una

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Animal Acts

Performing Species Today

Edited by Una Chaudhuri and Holly Hughes
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Ah, whom can we ever turn to in our need?
Not angels, not humans, and already the knowing animals are aware
that we are not really at home in our interpreted world.

Fling the emptiness out of your arms into the spaces we breathe;
perhaps the birds will feel the expanded air with more passionate flying.

—Rainer Maria Rilke, Duino Elegies

For my father, Wazirzada Sardar Baljit Singh,
and for my friend Fritz Ertl:
birder brothers across continents and centuries.

—Una Chaudhuri

and

For the many canines and felines
with whom I’ve shared my life, and for the humans who’ve helped our
multispecies household thrive. Thank you, Frankie Joiris, Raissa Hinman,
Denise Tarby, and of course Esther Newton.

—Holly Hughes