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Green Rail

The rail, less than half as tall
as a great blue heron
and metallic green
caught my eye
and then walked into tall grass
out of sight
not identifiable
from any bird book I've seen

I've seen owls sitting in trees
and flying in the wild
and I haven't been able to find
some of them
in any book

In Whitney valley in the late 70s
I watched a brilliant green sunset.

Some cold nights
I saw northern lights
dance on the horizon
though friends later said
couldn't be, that far south

What I think everybody means
is they were inside watching tv
while I participated
in the outdoor world

Listen. Listen to me a moment
while I tell you what I heard
when you had on headphones
listening to music
recorded in indoor studios
while the wild world sang
original songs all around you.