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The Decline and Fall of Frogs

On the lab table, fluid with formaldehyde,
they look like fetuses, oddly human
with their eloquent fingers
and plump bellies.

Close up one notices
the arm missing
the extra leg,

all part of
“an explosion of amphibian deformities,”

the caption proclaims.

We are living through
the Sixth Extinction,
(not to be believed, as if
denial could change the evidence).
And has it occurred to you,
or to me,
that we are a part of that?
not just the frogs, the bees,
the weaver birds, the ocelots,
the elephants, but us?

We are sinking, and yet we fret
about today’s fall in the stock market,
‘shithole’ countries
ISIS, ice melt,
refugees.

Only wounded larks,
and by degrees seas
rise.

How will we enlist the web-makers
the weavers, the pollinators
in these frayed times?