



Fine lines

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EDITED BY
David Martin

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Homesteading: How Paragons Prevail

DESHAE E. LOTT

I.

Attentively adapting in
the triple-digit heat,
the unmistakable flutter of red
perched
then dipped his bill
into the one tilting planter
with water resting
in its ridged blue rim
where you had just watered
the burgeoning porch tomatoes.

II.

You plant, fertilize, and
again and again and again
irrigate by hand
pepper, herb, and tomato plants
to pick and present to me
bearing your comforting smile
meal by meal
much like the cardinal
seeks, finds, and brings
its mate and fledglings
sunflower seeds and berries.

III.

She who designed the nest
Now sits and sings,

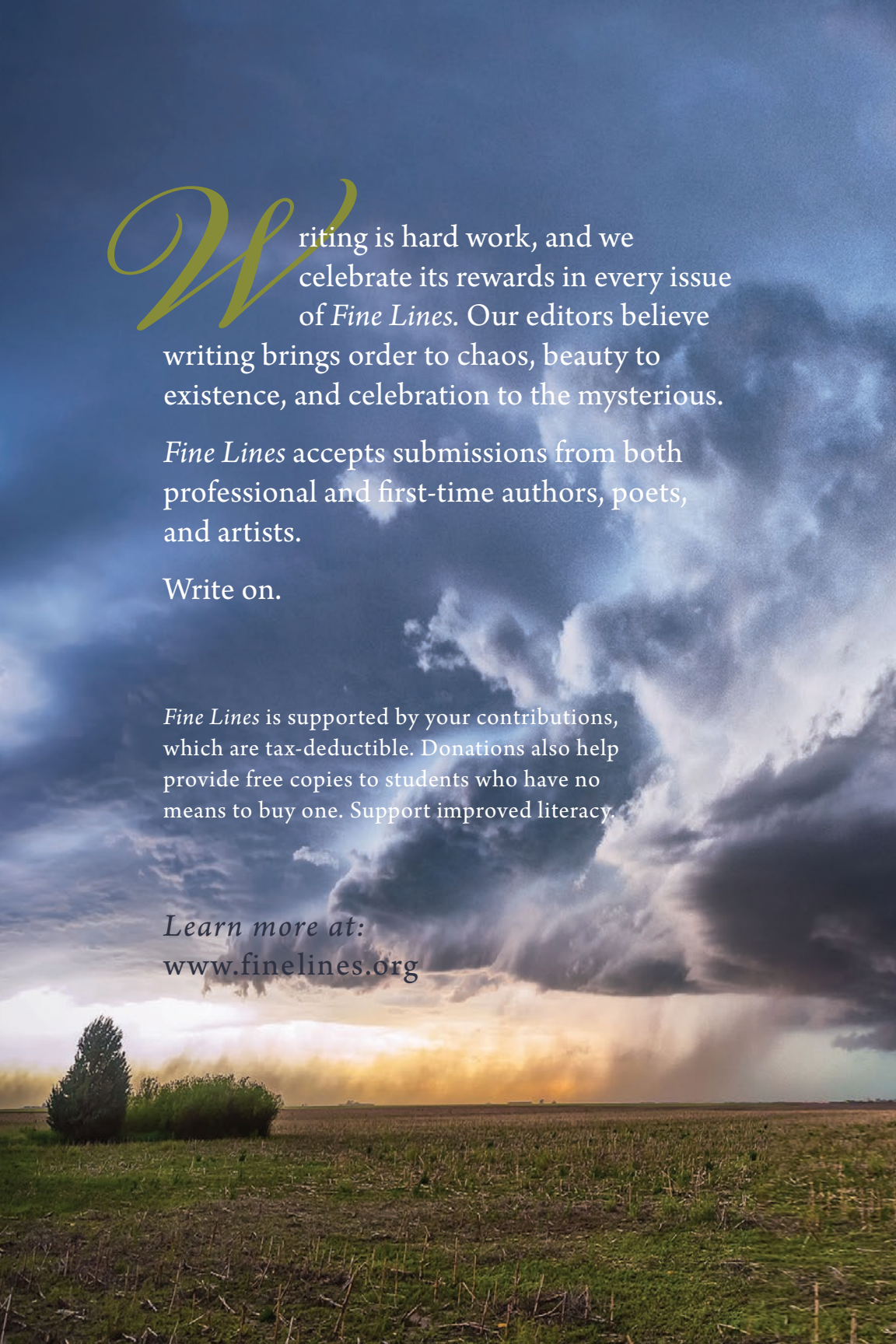
and it is enough.
Chicks come,
and we hear
her whistles and notes.



Sandhill Cranes Dancing, Lincoln County Nebraska
photo by Ron Boerner

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*W*riting is hard work, and we celebrate its rewards in every issue of *Fine Lines*. Our editors believe writing brings order to chaos, beauty to existence, and celebration to the mysterious.

Fine Lines accepts submissions from both professional and first-time authors, poets, and artists.

Write on.

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