The Snake Librarian
By Arne Weingart

In your dream
you were alphabetizing snakes

turning their flat hooded heads
the same way so that you

could sort them by relevant
category color perhaps or

deadliness of venom
the snakes as usual

failed to cooperate
it never occurring to them

to line up head to tail
or side by side

which would at least
give a person an idea

of where to start
leaving you no choice

but to reach down and
grab one after the other

by the neck which is to say
almost anywhere

and lay it on the table
next to the algae samples

and the crustaceans
the dried and discarded

boutonnieres from the hotel
wedding the unscrutinized

traffic camera photos
enough material left for

a good week’s worth
of dreams