Tender Underbellies

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Today while walking barefoot in the rain
watching the transient marble sky instead of my way,
my sole almost landed dead on a cadaverous bird.

And all I could think of was what it would feel like --
the squish of half-decomposed flesh
the splintering of hollow-cored bones
the smooth green-brown feathers and
white down beneath.

How sad to end mush on the pavement
groveling at the dirty feet of men,
when once you tickled the tender
underbellies of clouds.