



# **Ten Favorite Crow Poems**



**Selected by  
Gene Huggins**

This booklet was handmade for:

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Type for this booklet is set in Bodoni, a font created by Giambattista Bodoni in the 1790s.

For posters, booklets, cards and info:  
[www.posterproject.org](http://www.posterproject.org)

When crows mob a place, people consider them a nuisance. Some people even haze or shoot crows. But crows also have friends and defenders. As you'll see here, they figure fondly in the hearts of Central New York poets.

Gene Huggins is president of the Onondaga Chapter of the Audubon Society. He selected these favorite crow poems at the request of the Syracuse Poster Project.

Founded in 2001, the Poster Project brings together poets and Syracuse University artists to create an annual series of poetry posters for the city's poster panels. Each of sixteen annual posters features an illustrated haiku

about the downtown, city at large, or nearby countryside.

Because the poster process begins with an open call for haiku, it generates a surplus of work—more than 200 entries each year, usually including several about crows. This booklet mines the resulting archive.

As you enjoy these haiku, consider writing some of your own, or use the extra pages for taking notes, listing groceries, or musing about your feathered brothers.

A square symbol indicates haiku that have already inspired posters.

Crows cruise dawn to dusk  
could be Nature's vision of  
urban renewal

□

*Ellen Agnew*  
*Syracuse, NY*  
2007

Syracuse Sunday  
The Herald covered with snow  
three crows on the line

*Joan Cofrancesco*  
*Camillus, NY*  
2010

Passing crows caw as  
notes glide from a bluesman's slide  
in Armory Square

□

*Jay Cox*  
*Pompey, NY*  
2007

“Ha!” crow says, airing  
wings atop the dead maple  
creaking in the wind

*Jay Cox*  
*Pompey, NY*  
*2007*

Auburn crows, unhomed,  
fill my old sycamore tree  
with constant cawing

*Renee-Noelle Felice*  
*Syracuse, NY*  
*2011*

Through a scrim of snow  
See crows huddled on bare branch  
Black on black in white

□

*Nan Gartner*  
*Fayetteville, NY*  
*2006*

Startled awake now  
before the first crow—"caw" sounds  
plow blades in search of road

□

*Mark Kuney*  
*Syracuse, NY*  
*2007*

Crows circle the 'Cuse  
like the winged monkeys of Oz  
carefree, mischievous

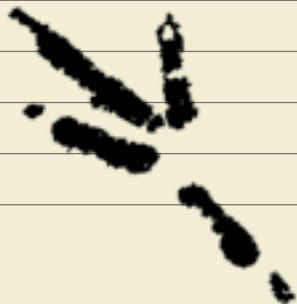
*Lawrence Kurlandsky*  
*Fayetteville, NY*  
*2011*

A crowd of crows fly  
in the winter sky, searching  
for shelter in snow

*Jungtae Lee*  
*Syracuse, NY*  
*2006*







Gene Huggins is the president of the Onondaga Chapter of the Audubon Society. He was given a telescope and book on birds at a very young age.

His fascination with birds has grown through the years and continues to this day. Huggins describes crows as wily, intelligent creatures. He has counted many crows and reports that their numbers are increasing.

He continues to observe and enjoy all the feathered creatures that he encounters. For more information on the local Audubon Society:

**[www.onondagaaudubon.com](http://www.onondagaaudubon.com)**



Gene Huggins

Photo by M. Egan

## Haiku Guidelines

- » Develop the habit of poetry.
- » Carry paper and pencil.
- » Slow down, pay attention.
- » Note experiences in the moment.
- » Reflect, mull.
- » Three lines: 5, 7, 5 syllables.
- » With each line, create an image.
- » Together, a progression of effects.
- » Write for sound, but avoid rhyme.
- » Convey a sense of season, nature.
- » Juxtapose: big/small, finite/infinite.
- » Use simple, concrete words.
- » Use literal, not figurative images.
- » Tell just enough.
- » Leave room for the reader.

