

Ten Favorite Crow Poems



**Selected by
Gene Huggins**

This booklet was handmade for:

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

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

Roosting in bare trees
over Columbus Circle
the crows are black leaves

Doreen Miori-Merola
Solvay, NY
2010

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



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.