

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



UPDATE from the City Manager for Sunday, October 25, 2020

Portsmouth Mask Ordinance now in effect. Do your part. Wear a mask.

Deaths to date from COVID-19: US: 225,871.

NH: 473. Rockingham County: 105.

Cumulative cases: US: 8,781,586.

Cumulative cases in NH: 10,238. Rockingham County: 2,511. Portsmouth: 157.

Current cases in NH: 946. Rockingham County: 215. In Portsmouth: 26.

For the complete, NH Department of Health & Human Services dashboard

<http://www.nh.gov/covid19>

Click here for the entire Advisory collection of poems by Portsmouth Poet Laureate Tammi Truax.

<https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/city-manager/portsmouth-poet-laureate>

The persona (from the Latin meaning “mask of the actor”) poem is an experimental form in which the poet speaks through an assumed voice. It is essentially a dramatic monologue, where the poet takes on the voice of a character and speaks directly to the audience. Sometimes the persona isn’t that of a person, as with mine today.

“It Kills All the Birds”

Facts, caws the cormorant,
I know more about wind than you.
The wind isn’t what gives us angst.
We depend upon it,
And so should you.

Let me say it for the song birds.
We don’t so much mind
a well-placed wind turbine
when so many more of us are clothes-lined
by power lines or stunned by windows wide.

But most in the *graveyard of birds*
come to their end day and night
not while in the ecstasy of flight
but when at home near the nest
during just one blink of rest,

snagged by the cunning claws
caught in death’s tiny jaws
by that sweet kitty cat
purring on your lap.
That’s a fact.

Coup d'état!

-- **Tammi J Truax**

*Portsmouth Poet Laureate 2019-2021/Maine Beat
Poet Laureate 2018-2020*

