This poem, entitled “Of Birds and Men,” initially was written for a graduate-level poetry class I took with Professor Kuipers in the fall of 2013, and the final revisions were completed on November 29, 2013. In this creative work, I have raised questions regarding life, death, and the possibility of an afterlife.

Illustrated in this work is the use of poetic craft with imagery and metaphors, with each section incorporating a different form to help add to the poem’s ultimate meaning. Employed in the first section are couplets to parallel with the fact that there are two parakeets in this section; the last two stanzas of this poem consist of one line each to signify the permanent separation of the parakeets due to one of their deaths. One line per stanza is employed in the second section to parallel the owl’s death with the reality that, in truth, we all die alone. Finally, the third section illustrates that life ultimately triumphs over death—even though the sparrow is witnessing a funeral procession, which is an indicator that death is inevitable, the sparrow still is able to find sustenance to survive another day by eating a worm. So even though the worm must die, it is part of a cycle that is larger than its individual life. The three lines per stanza employed in this section are symbolic of the Holy Trinity in Christian doctrine. In this section, the worm dies so that the bird lives, representative of the fact that, much like the Biblical death and resurrection of Jesus, life triumphs over death.