

Prayer Wheel

By **Thomas Alan Orr**

Talking is not the principal thing.
– Thomas Merton

Seven sparrows on a wire
have a reason for their singing.

Six fence-posts leaning south
foretell the weather in autumn.

Five fingers clinging to the roof
keep a desperate man from falling.

Four ducks paddling in a shallow pond
stir the fecund mud to new beginnings.

Three whistles from a distant train
tell a story that no one knows.

Two stars grace the bending moon
like earrings on a lovely girl.

One soul nearly lost to sorrow
wakes in gratitude for the world.



Thomas Alan Orr

Thomas Alan Orr raises Flemish Giant rabbits on a small farm in Indiana. He manages a program to train low-wage workers for better jobs. His most recent collection of poems is *Tongue to the Anvil* (Restoration Press, 2014). He is a two-time Pushcart Prize nominee.