## The Transportation of Hens

by Bill Yarrow

ten at a time we carried them by their legs to cages on the truck where they grew silent in the darkness of an early market

sixteen hundred hens
suffocated
during the collection
as we reached for them
they trampled each other to death
I was one of the collectors

in the morning, their deaths were discovered and we were called upon to load them first in nylon sacks and then onto a tractor cart

we drove them to a trench not far from the main road the transportation of hens, we were told, was a normal part of our work setting fire to the bags was not