



## Professional Nature Presentations by Stephen Shunk

*Naturalist, Author, Photographer, Field Biologist*

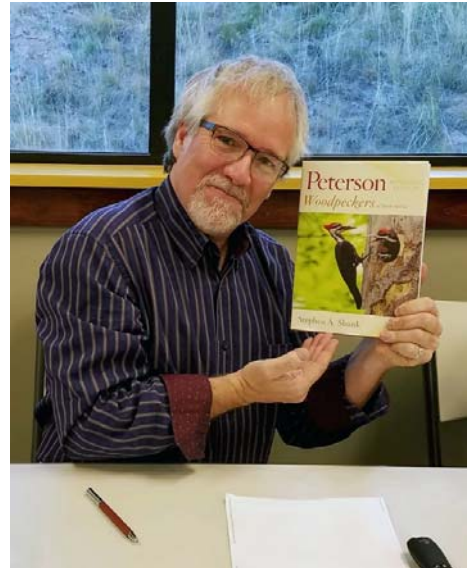
*“The best presentation we have had in 25 years.”*

*Bill Clark, Historian—Audubon Society of Missouri*

Thank you for considering one of my presentations for your event or organization. My goal is to share my knowledge, experience, and enthusiasm at whatever level is appropriate for your audience. I thoroughly enjoy talking about birds, birding, and nature, and regardless of the topic you choose, I promise you an entertaining and memorable program.

The presentations described below represent just a sampling of talks I have delivered over the last few years. Each talk includes discussions of relevant conservation issues, as well as natural history of birds, other wildlife, and their habitats. Presentations with a regional focus typically comprise a broad range of representative flora and fauna, including wildflowers, mammals, and other treasures from each region. Custom presentations can be designed for just about any group. For example, I have led bird photography seminars and given presentations to fly-fishing clubs and children’s home-school groups.

Detailed descriptions of each program are available upon request, and a brief biographical sketch is included below. Honoraria and travel expenses are requested on a sliding scale, depending on the budget of the sponsoring organization. Field seminars can be given in conjunction with any presentation to help cover expenses. For additional information, or to book a presentation, please contact me at 541-408-1753, or email [steve@paradisebirding.com](mailto:steve@paradisebirding.com).



*I look forward to hearing from you!*

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*“None of our previous programs specifically focusing on birds has been more ecologically informed.”*

*Ed Henry, Program Chair—San Diego Audubon Society*

*“Your presentation was the perfect combination of science and entertainment.”*

*Bartshe Miller, Education Director—Mono Lake Committee Bird Chautauque*

### How Woodpeckers Can Save the World (or at least your local woodland!)

North American woodpeckers perform multiple keystone roles in forest and woodland ecology. More than 40 North American bird species, dozens of mammals, and innumerable invertebrates depend on woodpeckers for their own lifestyles. However, humans need habitat, too, as well as wood products and agricultural resources. By clearing forests, felling snags, and suppressing fire, we have prevented woodpeckers from doing their jobs. Learn the basics of woodpecker natural history, anatomy, and ecology, and prepare to become new ambassadors for forest and woodpecker conservation.

### Tongues, Toes and Tales of North American (or regional) Woodpeckers: Anatomy & Adaptation

Imagine for a moment slamming your face into a brick wall at 16 miles per hour. This self-destructive (and foolish) act would require about 1,200 g of force. Yet, a Pileated Woodpecker exerts the same force up to 20 times per second, and as many as 12,000 times per day, pounding its head into trees! The woodpecker anatomy is perfectly suited for its climbing and excavating lifestyle. Some woodpecker species also possess adaptations for aerial acrobatics, for drilling sap wells, or for extracting ants from underground burrows. Dive deep into the world of woodpecker specialization.

### The Lives & Times of (state or regional) Woodpeckers

This popular and well-rounded presentation covers the natural history, ecology, and conservation of the woodpecker species occurring in a given region. Beginning with an overview of the woodpecker family, the talk delves into breeding and non-breeding behaviors that make each species unique. Birds will be placed into their specific habitat contexts, with discussion on how multiple species can coexist in a given forest stand or woodland. The presentation concludes with current conservation issues that affect local woodpeckers and their habitats, as well as keystone roles played by local woodpecker species.

### Humming Across the Americas

Up to 380 hummingbird species live in the western hemisphere, from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego, with the hummingbird family diversity (Trochilidae) surpassed only by the flycatchers (Tyrannidae), worldwide. From North America's migratory Rufous & Ruby-throated Hummingbirds to Peru's endemic Marvelous Spatuletail, hummingbirds fascinate us with their signature flight style, and they play critical roles as pollinators. A hummingbird extravaganza awaits in the New World tropics, with tropical eye candy that will make you dust off your passport!

### Malaysian Borneo: an Equatorial Wildlife Safari

Travel from Southeast Asia's highest mountain—13,000-foot Mt Kinabalu—to the white-sand beaches of the South China Sea. See Orangutans and Proboscis Monkeys in the pristine tropical rainforest, and view the world's smallest raptor, the Bornean Falconet, and the world's largest flower, the Rafflesia. A true nature safari!

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## BACKGROUND SKETCH OF STEPHEN A. SHUNK

Steve began birding in 1989 in San Jose, CA, and started teaching birding classes in 1992. He founded the Paradise Birding tour company in 1997, with current tours across the western hemisphere and beyond. Steve now resides in Bend, Oregon, on the eastern slope of the Oregon's Cascade Mountains. He co-founded the East Cascades Bird Conservancy and served as its first president; he also co-founded the Oregon Birding Trails program and coordinated its flagship project, the Oregon Cascades Birding Trail.

Steve's Woodpecker research began in 1997 upon arriving in central Oregon, where 11 of the 22 North America woodpeckers breed each summer. Steve's first book, the *Peterson Reference Guide to Woodpeckers of North America* was published in May 2016.

Steve has delivered presentations for the annual meetings of state ornithological societies, annual bird festivals, and dozens of local bird clubs, including nearly 50 local Audubon chapters. References and a list of past presentations and audiences can be provided upon request.

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