



# Professional Nature Presentations by Stephen Shunk

*Naturalist, Author, Photographer*

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

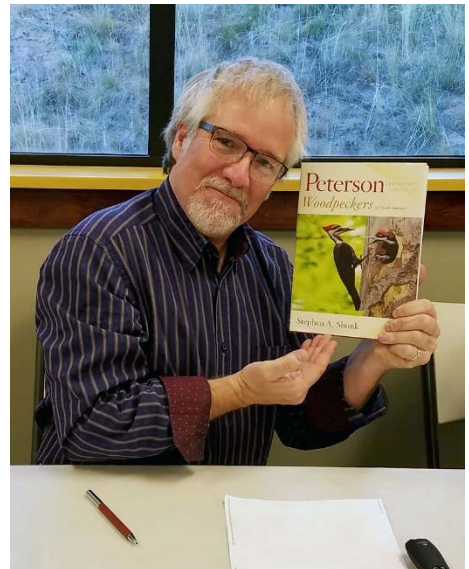
*Bill Clark, Historian—Audubon Society of Missouri*

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.

Over the last 20 years, I have delivered nearly 100 presentations to Audubon chapters, ornithological societies, community colleges, libraries, and scientific & business meetings. These have included talks to international audiences in Mexico, the Caribbean, and Malaysia. The presentations described below represent just a small sample of the talks I have delivered in recent years. Each talk includes discussions of relevant conservation issues, as well as the 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 natural treasures from each region. Custom presentations can be designed for just about any group. For example, I have led bird photography and biology seminars and have given presentations to fly-fishing clubs and 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 Chautauqua*

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

North American woodpeckers perform multiple keystone roles in the ecology of our forests and woodlands. More than 40 North American bird species, dozens of mammals, and innumerable invertebrates depend upon 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 while traveling 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 tyrant 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!

### International Travel 101

North America offers some outstanding birding, so why leave our home continent? Expense, safety, family matters, and language barriers are just a few of the obstacles that may prevent us from venturing beyond our borders, but the biggest obstacle may be psychological: we like to stay in our comfort zones. However, none of us is getting any younger, and traveling gets more challenging as we age. I offer some simple advice: Travel now, and travel often. There is a great big world out there of wonderful lands, amazing cultures, and exceptional birding. This introduction to international travel includes plenty of travel tips and some spectacular scenery and wildlife, for both entertainment and inspiration.

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## BACKGROUND SKETCH OF STEPHEN A. SHUNK

Steve began birding in 1989 in San Jose, California, and he started teaching birding classes in 1992. He founded the Paradise Birding tour company in 1997, and he currently leads tours in 8 states and 12 countries, and on 4 continents. Steve now resides in Sisters, Oregon, on the eastern slope of Oregon's Cascade Mountains. He co-founded the East Cascades Bird Conservancy (now East Cascades Audubon), and he served as its first president. Steve also co-founded the Oregon Birding Trails program and coordinated its flagship project, the Oregon Cascades Birding Trail. He served as a 15-year compiler for two Christmas Bird Counts, and he has conducted field studies in Oregon and California.

Steve's woodpecker research began in central Oregon in 1998, where 11 of the 22 North America woodpeckers breed each summer. His first book, the *Peterson Reference Guide to Woodpeckers of North America* was published in May 2016.

References, photos, and a list of past presentations and audiences can be provided upon request.

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