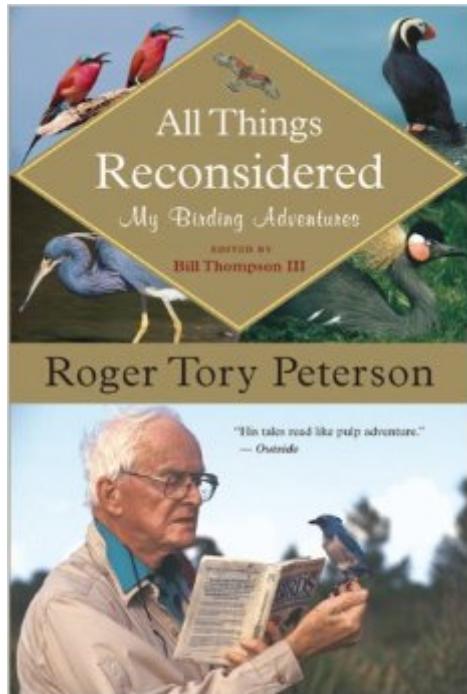


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All Things Reconsidered: My Birding Adventures



Synopsis

Roger Tory Peterson's unique perspective on birding comes to life in these highly personal narratives. Here he relates his adventures during a lifetime of birding and traveling the world to observe and record nature. Though Peterson was widely known for his illustrations, this collection reminds us to reconsider his accomplishments as a photographer, for Peterson was nearly as passionate about photography as he was about painting. The essays and photographs included here were carefully selected by Bill Thompson III, the editor of *Bird Watcher's Digest*, which ran the column "All Things Reconsidered" during the last twelve years of Peterson's life.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Roger Tory Peterson was a great man. Not just a great ornithologist, naturalist or artist (which he certainly was), but simply a great man. This is a book by that great and remarkably multi-talented man. In this collection of essays, mostly written in his twilight years, Peterson recounts his birding adventures, reminisces with old friends such as Sir Peter Scott and Ludlow Griscom, and occasionally gives his perspective on such things as American wildlife painting and Audubon's legacy. The birding adventures are undoubtedly fascinating; they are written in a very unassuming, down-to-earth fashion, but still tell the stories vividly -- on more than one occasion Peterson really came close to losing his life chasing his beloved birds! In his writing, you can almost tell that he was a patient, knowledgeable gentleman who genuinely took delight in observing birds and nature, and sharing the experience with others. The other essays are also very interesting: In "Immortal

Audubon", Peterson correctly recognized that Audubon often was trigger-happy and killed more birds than necessary for his painting, but also pointed out that Audubon's legacy was raising people's awareness of America's avifauna and biodiversity, so although Audubon was not a conservationist himself, this awakened awareness in American people had its lasting impact on American or even world-wide environmentalism. This properly puts things in perspective. (A side note: I never liked Audubon's paintings as I think most of them have unnatural poses and I certainly don't like the fact that he had to kill so many birds just to paint one. In this essay I also learned that Audubon usually shot the birds, then propped them up with wires and sticks to "pose" for him, which explains the unnatural pose I've always suspected.

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