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Hola from Peter Alden!

My first letter since the Sox and Patriots started winning series and super bowls! Manny Ramirez signed my "We Love NY but in the 21<sup>st</sup> its Boston 2, Yankees/Mets 0" sign along the duck boat victory parade.

We dedicated late brother Carl's engravings on a fine May Day with his brothers, sisters, nieces and friends in Newton. He's been spotted a number of times by his former housemates and staff. Everyone misses Big Carl.

Brother Richard has set up my first website [www.peteraldenwildlife.com](http://www.peteraldenwildlife.com). Check it out!

Main gigs at the moment are many dozens of one hour slide shows followed by book signings at garden clubs, adult residences, nature and travel groups, high school classes and NGO Annual meetings. My recent hot topics are:

"The Invasive Alien Plant Crisis in New England"

"Changes in Flora and Fauna from Thoreau's day to today"

"What's up with our Songbirds"

"The High Canadian Arctic Archipelago: Climate Change, Ice Bears and Inuit"

Locally in Concord I co-compile the nation's largest Audubon Christmas Bird Count in # of participants year after year. Our valley has great local bird talent, a thousand bird feeders, and abundant invasive alien and non-invasive horticultural fruiting trees, shrubs and vines. In the last ten years and back we have usually led all of a thousand other US counts in #'s of 2 woodpeckers, blue jays, chickadees, nuthatches, titmice, goldfinches and juncos.

After six years as chair of a fund, program chair, VP, and then President of the Nuttall Ornithological Club in Cambridge, I now have a breather, and can be introduced as the President Emeritus of the Nut Club. Enjoyed seeing Jane Goodall at our 9<sup>th</sup> Peterson Lecture at Harvard. Still involved with various Biodiversity events with Ed Wilson. Was pleased to finally see in print (and make the acknowledgements in all three) the Birds of Peru (had dinner with co-author/artist John O'Neill recently), Birds of Northern South America, and Birds of South America by three Argentine colleagues.

In travel in recent years I've restricted myself to just the western hemisphere. I've worked as a Road Scholar lecturer the last two winters on the Canadian Polar Star in Antarctica, South Georgia, the Falklands, and Argentina. Was shocked to see that the Lindblad Explorer sank in very familiar seas off King George Island. Working at Lindblad Travel in the 80's I sailed on that ship many times w/ Lars-Eric and so many great lecturers and fun travelmates. Spent a recent summer sailing the NW Passage and reaching 82N during month around Ellesmere Island lecturing on Quark's KK icebreaker. In between the poles I lectured at 37,000' on a private jet tour around South America, several other private jet tours. Will be leading a number of Galapagos cruises on the Santa Cruz for Road Scholar starting in late October 2008.

Have just returned from Puerto Vallarta, San Blas and Tepic in Pacific Mexico and will likely get involved with light birding tours in my old 1960's stomping grounds.

Did an all day SW book signing at Tucson Audubon and had great time with old UofA friends. Book sales of my 15 books have passed 1,500,000 copies and I am busy working on several new titles and otherwise enjoying the 30<sup>th</sup> year or so of my mid-life crisis.

How about you?