



Artist: Jim Ayers of Minneapolis, Minnesota. Jim is well known in fan bird circles for his elaborate painted birds. He has published several magazine articles. Some of which are ...Woodwork, Feb. 2000, pgs. 44-51 ...Creative Woodworks & Crafts, Jan. 2000, pgs. 46-47.

Design: Jim's fan bird design is elegant. He achieves this sweeping gracefulness from one-piece-of-wood. This fan dove holds a symbolic olive leaf in his beak.

Timber: Aspen



Artist: Herb Baxter of St. Louis, Michigan.

Design: This little hummingbird is constructed with one-piece-of-wood. It is typical of the Michigan lumberjack's design.

Timber: unknown



Artist: Norm Busta of Mendota Heights, Minnesota. Norm is well known in fan bird circles for his elaborately painted birds as well as those left natural.

Design: This fan bird dove is created from one-piece-of-wood. The sweeping design offers grace and flow, as if the bird is in flight. The bird holds a symbolic olive leaf in its beak.

Timber: Basswood



Artist: Mark Anthony Goins of Michigan. This bluejay is made using a fan-carving technique from one-piece-of-wood. It was hand-painted using acrylic paints.

Timber: unknown



Artist: Dick Heintzelman of Inverness, Florida. Dick has been teaching fan-carving for several years.

Design: This little fan hummingbird is constructed with one-piece-of-wood. The design is basic, but well done. The glittered paint adds a nice touch.

Timber: White cedar



Artist: Hubert Hoffman III of Huntsburg, Ohio. Hubert is a young fan carver that is doing wonderful creations.

Design: This fan peacock is constructed from one-piece-of-wood. The V-scorp cuts as well as the carving design along the feathers offer the suggestion of the lovely “eyes” of a real peacock’s tail. This bird has three interlocks that adds to the detail. The head crest is rived to give the peacock a crest in the proper direction ...well done.

Timber: Spruce



Bob Hollenback, Lachine, Michigan. Bob is self-taught and has been making fan birds for several years.

Design; This hummingbird is constructed with one-piece-of-wood. It is of typical lumberjack style from the northern Michigan camps. The little point on the end of the feathers adds a nice effect.

Timber: Michigan white cedar



Artist: Jeff Jacobs of Arlington, Virginia.

Design: This fan dove is constructed with one-piece-of-wood. It has three fans: one wing and two tails. The carved feather shape offers a suggestion of more than one interlock, but there is just one...nicely done.

Timber: White cedar





Artist: Jeff Jacobs of Arlington, Virginia

Design: This hummingbird is created from one-piece-of-wood. The wings are one fan with a single interlock ...the same for the tail. The two extra cuts on each side of the feather adds a lovely detail.

After the feathers are rived and before they are fanned out, the bird's beak and the tips of all the feathers are dipped into very hot sand that is heated on a stove. This creates the burnt tips of all the feathers. This old marquetry technique adds a very pleasing appearance to the bird.

Timber: yellow cedar



Artist: Dick Mazza of Puyallup, Washington.

Design: This fan hummingbird is created from one-piece-of-wood. It is unique because its beak is cleverly seated in a flower.

Timber: Basswood



Artist: Ed Menard of Cabot, Vermont. Ed has been making fan birds for many years. He has been written about in several magazines such as ...Fine WorkWorking July/Aug. 1987, pgs. 50-51 ...Chip Chats May/June 1998. pgs. 102-103.

Design: This fan bird dove is just one of Ed's many designs. It is constructed with one-piece-of-wood: half sapwood and half heartwood. This brings out the beautiful color variation. The interlock is halfway along the feather. The three V-scorp cuts between the interlock and tip of the feather adds lovely detail.

Timber: Northern white cedar



Artist: Sally Nye of Fennville, Michigan. Sally and David Nye own and operate Fan Carver's World. The Nye's are noted worldwide for their research on fan-carving. They have written books, articles and have been interviewed throughout the world for television and newspapers.

Design: This hummingbird has one fan. When creating this type type of design, a scorp cut brings decorative detail to the overall appearance.

Timber: White cedar



Artist: George Stadlander of Mantua, Ohio. George has been fan-carving for several years. He is well known for his fan creations.

Design: The lovebirds are constructed with one-piece-of-wood. George has added detail by coloring the V-scorp cuts along the feathers. It enhances the appearance once they are fanned and interlocked.

Timber: unknown



Artist: George Stadlander of Mantua, Ohio. George has been fan-carving for several years. He is well known for his fan creations.

Design: This fan creation is constructed with one-piece-of-wood. The tops are heart shaped. Every other top has been clipped off so the heart is more pronounced.

Timber: unknown



Artist: George Stadlander of Mantua, Ohio. George has been fan-carving for several years. He is well known for his fan creations.

Design: This pegasus horse is one of several of George's fan creations. It is constructed with one-piece-of-wood. By adding a touch of black along the scorp cut, it creates a nice effect once interlocked ...nicely done.

Timber: White cedar



Artist: John Dexter White of Massachusetts. His fan bird pelican is his creation which has one fan representing the wings and tail feathers. The center (anchor) feather can be see at the top of its back.

Timber: Unknown





Artist: Rick Wiebe of Westbank, British Columbia, Canada. Rick is well known for his fan birds. He has been published in Wood Carving Illustrated Spring 2002, pgs. 56-60 ...Carving magazine Spring 2008, pgs. 65-70. Rick has also published, Adventures in Fan Carving, a book you will find on his website (below).

Design: This fan peacock is constructed with one-piece-of-wood. Rick colors the scorp cuts and the tip of the feathers to offer the suggestion of peacock colors once the feathers are interlocked. It enhances the pattern without taking from the natural wood grain.

Timber: Sugar pine from California

Website: [www.woodcarvingbiz.com](http://www.woodcarvingbiz.com)



Artist: Rick Wiebe of Westbank, British Columbia, Canada. Rick is well known for his fan birds. He has been published in Wood Carving Illustrated Spring 2002, pgs. 56-60 ...Carving magazine Spring 2008, pgs. 65-70. Rick has also published, Adventures in Fan Carving, a book you will find on his website (below).

Design: This fan hummingbird is constructed with on-piece-of-wood. Each scorp cut has been colored so the nice color effect is displayed when interlocked. It presents a nice suggestion of color without overpowering the natural wood tones.

Timber: Western white pine

Website: [www.woodcarvingbiz.com](http://www.woodcarvingbiz.com)

# ***Terminology***

**Air-dried**-Wood dried by air to the point that the moisture from it will not further evaporate. It has reached its equilibrium with the outdoor atmospheric humidity.

**Annual growth ring**-A concentric line in the tree trunk that represents one-year's growth.

**Bark**-The outer most covering of the tree.

**Blade**-a. The flat cutting edge of a knife. b. The thin pieces of wood created from slicing long-fibered wood that will interlock with each other (associated with 3-dimensional fans).

**Blank**-The piece of wood used for fan-carving.

**Butt end**-The bottom section of the tree trunk that is above ground level. Area where the root system interacts with the straighter trunk.

**Cedar swamp**-A lowland region saturated with water, acid soil, conducive to promoting growth of coniferous evergreen trees of the genus *Cedrus* (Cedar).

**Chipper**-A machine that takes small branches and pieces of wood and cuts them into smaller chips.

**Circumference**-The circular outer boundary of the tree.

**Fan birds**-3-dimensional birds carved from one piece of wood using the interlock and hinge procedure. Old World folk art with symbolic spiritual association.

**Fan-carving**-The art of slicing long-fibered wood into blades (feathers) and then twisting and interlocking them to create a 3-dimensional design from one piece of wood.

**Feather**-Same as blade with application toward fan birds. Feather is associated with 3-dimensional fan birds, whereas, blade is associated with 3-dimensional fans.

**Fiber-tag**-A thin partial piece of fiber at the base of the blade (feather). A pressure break in the fiber caused during the slicing process and is visible during the twisting process.

**Folk art**-The traditional Old World handicrafts and art that contained symbolism and lore, handed down through generations. A keeping of the heritage.

**Fresh wood**-Freshly cut, green wood, high moisture content, unseasoned.

**Froe**-A cleaving tool having a heavy blade set at right angles to the handle. Associated with making shingles.

**Fuzz**-Fine fibers or hairs frayed loose rather than severed sharp and clean. Sometimes occurs during the slicing of long-fibered wet wood.

**Green gold**-Referred to the White pine during the lumbering era. White pine was in demand during the settling of America.

**Hatchet**-A small, short handled axe.

**Heartwood**-The center portion of the tree that no longer has active cells, therefore, contains no sap. It is darker in color and harder than sapwood.

**Hinge**-The tapered, slant cut that is very thin (about 1/8-inch or less). It is thin enough so that the long-fibered blades (feathers) can be twisted to a 45-degree angle.

**Interlock cut**-The area carved out, in alignment, on both sides of the blank where the blades (feathers) will join, hook or fasten to each other (similar to dovetailing).

**Interlocking process**-The act of twisting the long-fibered, sliced blades (feathers) and hooking (fastening) them to each other to create 3-dimensional fan art from one piece of wood.

**Kiln-dried**-Wood that is dried in an oven specifically to evaporate the moisture content so it is below the atmospheric humidity level or to attain a specific moisture content.

**Knot**-A circular, darker cross section of a tree where a branch node or stem grew. Surrounded by wavy wood fibers.

**Log**-The trunk of a felled tree, trimmed but unhewn timber.

**Long-fibered**-Elongated, thick walled cells that give strength and support to the tree. Strong enough to hold together during the twisting process of fan-carving.

**Lumberjack**-A person who fells trees and transports them to the lumber mill.

**Needle-nose pliers**-A tool having a pair of very pointed pivoted jaws for holding, bending or cutting.

**Pop the blank**-The process of procuring a small portion of wood from a round by use of a knife, screwdriver and mallet.

**Reconstitute**-The process of reintroducing moisture content into wood that has been seasoned or dried.

**Round**-That part of the log that has been measured and cut into a usable size (slice of a log).

**Rubber mallet**-A short handled tool with a large rubber head used to strike an object with force without damaging it.

**Sap**-The sticky, watery substance that circulates through the tree and carries food and nourishment to it.

**Sapwood**-The live wood containing sap that is just inside the bark and cambium layer of the tree. Usually lighter in color than the heartwood.

**Scissors**-A cutting tool consisting of two blades joined by a swivel pin that allows the cutting edges to be opened and closed.

**Score**-A small cut made with a knife and mallet.

**Shim**-A thin, tapered piece of wood used as a filler between two pieces of material.

**Shingle bird**-European name for fan bird.

**Slicing**-To cut or divide into thin, broad blades (feathers) from a larger piece of wood.

**Splint bird**-European name for fan bird.

**Splitting**-Same as slicing.

**Stop cut**-A knife cut made along a line that serves to prevent later cuts from splitting the wood past that line.

**Straight-grained**-Visible to the eye, the grain (fiber) direction along the edges of the wood.

**Templates**-Drawings in actual size, ready to copy onto a blank.

**Tongs**-A grasping device consisting of two arms joined at one end by a pivot or a hinge.

**Twisting**-The act of turning the blade (feather) at the hinge to a 45-degree angle so it will interlock with the next one.

**Wavy grain**-Visible to the eye, the grain (fiber) direction having curves and undulations.

**Whack**-The act of striking an object with enough force to create a splitting action in the wood.

**Whittle**-The act of paring away small pieces of wood with a knife to fashion or shape into an object.

**Woodgrain**-The alignment of cells or fibers in the wood due to growth ring and growth rate. Usually contrasting in hue and visible with the eye.

**Workability**- The ease with which a piece of wood can be cut with a knife.