

EVERHART MUSEUM

NATURAL HISTORY, SCIENCE & ART

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For Immediate Release

Press Photographs are Available Upon Request

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New Exhibit Focused on Birds in Science, Culture & Art Opens February 1, 2008 at Scranton's Everhart Museum

Scranton – January 21, 2008: In honor of the Everhart Museum's centennial year, significant artifacts from the museum's core collections have been chosen to highlight the museum's place in the cultural landscape of Northeast Pennsylvania. ***Flocks & Feathers: Birds in Science, Culture and Art***, the first major exhibit of the 2008 season, will be on display at the Everhart Museum of Natural History, Science & Art beginning on February 1st and continuing through June 1, 2008. This exhibit showcases the museum's ornithological specimens – a core collection of 2,000+ examples donated in 1908 by the museum's founder, Dr. Isaiah Fawkes Everhart – as well as examples from the ethnographic and art collections incorporating feathers and/or depicting birds. This exhibit is funded in part by a grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

Birds are an important element of the world's ecosystem, traveling millions of miles each year following their migration patterns. The exhibit narrative of ***Flocks & Feathers*** is designed to flow in complement to global migratory patterns so that, as they move through the galleries, visitors too will travel the world. Each of the three galleries will feature artifacts drawn from the museum's collections representing those parts of the world and will focus the visitor's understanding of the importance and role of birds in specific cultures and environments.

In addition to exploring the museum's permanent collections, ***Flocks & Feathers*** presents interpretative issues such as evolution/extinction, hunting/conservation, health concerns, and a myriad of other ideas. Bird life cycles, song, and evolutionary characteristics have inspired cultures and artists for millennia. More recently, with issues such as extinction and global fear of avian flu, birds have become news, and the folk lore aspect of their history comes into play.

Flocks & Feathers features work by contemporary artists who use birds as an element or metaphor in their art. Artists included in the exhibit are: Les Christensen, Susan Scranton Dawson, Renée Emanuel, Valerie Kiser, Philip Knoll, Eleanor Lux, Christine Medley, Joan Miró, Stas Orlovski, Paul Plante, Greg Raymond, Joseph Rossano, John Salvest, Kim Saul, Paul Villinski, Karen Willenbrink-Johnsen. The exhibit also serves as a complement to the Everhart's permanent 1st-floor "Bird Gallery" where 300+ ornithological specimens are on view at any time.

A Gallery One exhibit, ***In the Field: Birding and Research in Lackawanna County***, will further enhance the museum's temporary and permanent bird exhibits by focusing on the efforts of birding volunteers who observe and count the various types of birds found in Northeastern Pennsylvania, as well as the data and studies of scientific researchers in tracking the habitats and health of the birds and their local ecological niches. ***In the Field*** will be on display February 1 through March 31, 2008.

The Everhart Museum is open: noon-4:00 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Monday; 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. on Saturday; and noon-5:00 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is \$5/adults, \$3/students & seniors, \$2/children 6-12, and free to Everhart Museum members. For more information, contact the museum at 570-346-7186 or email general.information@everhart-museum.org.

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About the Everhart Museum: Founded in 1908, the Everhart Museum of Natural History, Science & Art is the largest general museum in Northeastern Pennsylvania. The Everhart Museum, located in Nay Aug Park in Scranton, is a not-for-profit institution dedicated to the collection, care and display of a diverse array of artifacts, including natural history, science and fine arts. Through our exhibits and programs, the Everhart Museum has become an invaluable regional resource for educational and cultural opportunities. General support for the museum is received from the Lackawanna County Office of Education & Culture, the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, and the City of Scranton. For more information on the museum visit our website at www.everhart-museum.org or contact us at 570-346-7186.