

# Ring Neck Pheasant, Medicine Animal

Over the past three weeks I was both delighted and surprised to see Ring Neck Pheasants on 4 separate occasions. The first sighting occurred as I crossed over the Clark Fork River bridge near our home. I had never seen this colorful fellow in the wild and was even more surprised to encounter him on the other side of the bridge as I returned home three hours later.

Last Sunday on my way home from Mass I could barely believe my eyes to see a different one five miles from the bridge. And the next morning presented yet a fourth sighting closer to town. It's been a while since I considered the possibility of an unusual critter offering me a medicine gift. When I looked up Ring Neck Pheasant, I was humbled by the effort Maka Ina pressed into my life so that I would feel Her comfort surround me during a challenging time in my life.

Both my astrological and numerological charts indicated an upcoming period of learning to be comfortable with feeling the discomfort of radical change...varying environments coupled with increased travel is not supportive of the Autistic neurology I possess. But the medicine sighting gave me confidence that, as Temple Grandin presses fellow Autistics to do, expanding our horizons soothes the disorder as we gain the surety to press forward through the fire.

Ring Neck Pheasant medicine indicates good news and grace as one faces new experiences. The bird craves freedom and flight. It teaches one how to feel comfortable in new situations and with other. "Lele wopila heca, Maka Ina!"\*

\*Lakota "Thank you for everything!"