

# BirdWalk Newsletter

10.23.2016

Walk conducted by: Perry Nugent

Written by: Jayne J. Matney



Palm Warbler

Photos by Jenn Goddard

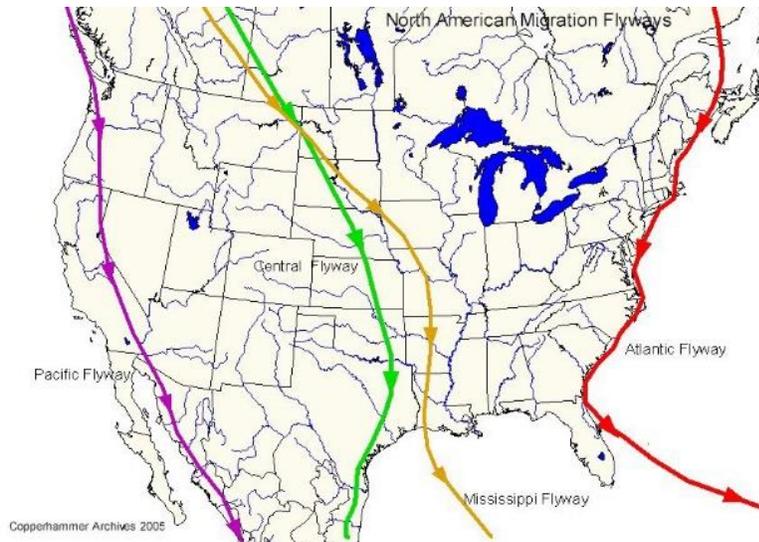
**“Birds sing after a storm; why shouldn’t people feel as free to delight in whatever remains to them?”**      **Rose F Kennedy**



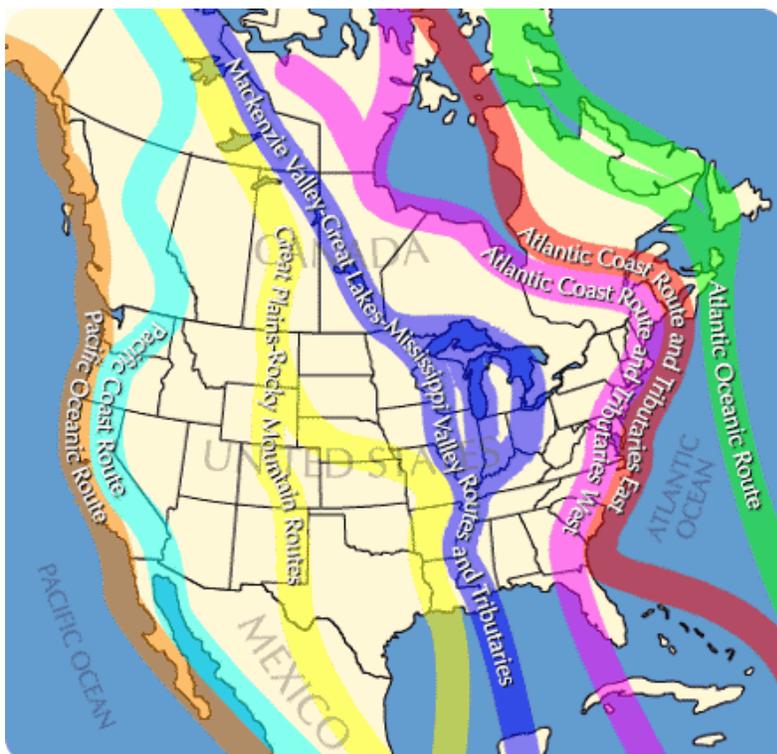
**Migration is a seasonal movement of many types of birds, usually north and south movement, between their breeding and wintering grounds. It is primarily driven by the food source availability. The price they pay for this movement can be high for these birds because it can put them in harm’s way. The mortality rate tends to be high.**

**There are 4 major North American flyway zones for migration. They are: The Pacific, Central, Mississippi, and Atlantic. There are some extensions of these zones with alternative tracts according to the bird species.**

This image, from the Copperhammer Archives 2005, shows the simplified version of these flyways.



A more detailed version was found on the Illinois website, [www.ilbirds.com](http://www.ilbirds.com). See it below:





As you can see in the illustration on the left, when you just plot waterfowl migration on a map, as done here (from Gilligalloubird.com), it fits along those flyways. We are positioned in the Atlantic Flyway, therefore we receive and lose bird species at seasonal times of the year. This flyway has an enormous variety of

ecosystems. Because more than one third of the population of the United States is along this particular flyway, human interaction is a number one concern for the Audubon Society's mission. Change in sea level is their number two concern ([www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org)).

Here at Magnolia Plantation and Gardens, the *Camellia sasanquas* and *Camellia japonica* plants are beginning their budding and blooming cycle, and berry producing plants are yielding their crop. The air is starting to feel like autumn. Migration of many birds begin at this time. The warblers are going to start increasing in numbers and migrating sparrows will follow suit. Many duck species and the American Coots will begin to come in for the winter. So expect those numbers to rise as well!

**“Summer is leaving silently. Much like a traveler approaching the end of an amazing journey.”** Darnell L. Walker

This Sunday was a cool, hazy and breezy morning with 3 participants on the walk with Perry. As expected, the numbers of species (56) and the number of individuals are on the rise this week! The Gadwall are starting to show up with 4 found out at the cross dike. 3 Pied-billed Grebe were also seen. But not to be beat, were the Blue-winged Teal

with approximately 70 individuals! Snowy egrets and Little Blue Herons topped the wading/shorebird tally with 20 each. The White Ibis count was not far behind with 14 individuals. Anhinga, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Tri-colored Heron were also accounted for but in smaller numbers. One Osprey was spied over the river, and 2 adult Bald Eagles kept the back ponds interesting. A Northern Harrier was also seen over the rice field. Not a usual sighting, the Sharp-shinned Hawk, was seen as a highlight and the more familiar Cooper's Hawk,



Red-shouldered Hawk photo by Fuhrman

Red-shouldered Hawk, and Red Tailed Hawk were included in the mix. Quite a nice day for seeing the birds of prey. The vultures also made appearances with 6 Black and 10 Turkey Vultures. 1 Killdeer made the list as it waded along the new mudflat behind the large old rice field that was dredge this past winter. The largest numbers came from the Common Moorhen with 100!

To keep things interesting, 4 Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1 Downy Woodpecker, and 3 Pileated Woodpeckers along with 4 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and 2 Northern Flicker darted about the wooded areas.



The small birds included the Belted Kingfisher, the Eastern Phoebe, White-eyed Vireos, Blue Jay, American Crow, Fish Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eastern Bluebird, Swainson's Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, **as seen in the photo left by Jennifer Goddard,** and Brown Thrasher

were all there. The Highlight of the warbler family was the Black-throated Blue Warbler! Getting a glimpse of them as they head down to South America for the winter is quite a treat! The Black-and-white Warblers were definitely outnumbered by the 100 Yellow-rumped Warblers that have found at place here for the fall. Common Yellowthroat, Savannah Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow seem to be other newcomers, while the Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, and Boat-tailed Grackle finished off the list!