



WILDLIFE WINDOW: Painted Bunting & Yellow-throated Warbler Welcome Back, “Snowbirds” Songbirds

Photo-story by the P&P Committee

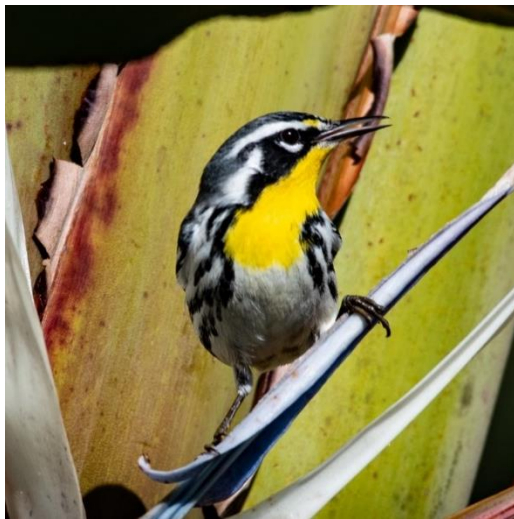
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Welcome back to all our “snowbirds” – both human and winged. We are excited that two of our favorite songbirds have returned to Florida for the winter. Let’s learn more:

Painted Bunting

(*Passerina ciris*, cardinal family). With their vivid fusion of blue, green, yellow, and red, male Painted Buntings seem to have flown straight out of a child’s coloring book. Females and immatures are a distinctive bright green. This colorful songbird is common in the Southeast, around brushy areas and woodland edges. It is often secretive, staying low in dense cover. However, males sing from higher in the trees, partly hidden among foliage or sometimes out in the sun on an exposed perch. Their song is a series of short, musical phrases of thin, sweet, high-pitched notes lasting about two seconds.



Yellow-throated Warbler

(*Setophaga dominica*) is a small migratory songbird with a sharp and pointed bill. These warblers forage by hopping along tree branches, probing into cracks, crevices, bundles of pine needles, and Spanish moss. These birds build cup-shaped nests in trees, and are concealed amongst conifer needles or Spanish Moss. They are insectivorous, yet will include berries and nectar in their diet outside the breeding season. The males' songs are clear, descending whistles that sound like high sees or sharp *chips*.

Protect their Habitats. By keeping our ponds and preserves healthy, more diverse wildlife is attracted to Rivendell, such as these beautiful migrating songbirds. Let’s enjoy their beauty, plus keep our property values strong.

We remind you to view the amazing wildlife photos on the P&P website and Wildlife Photo Gallery (www.rivendellcommunity.com/ponds).



(Photos by Bob Frank)