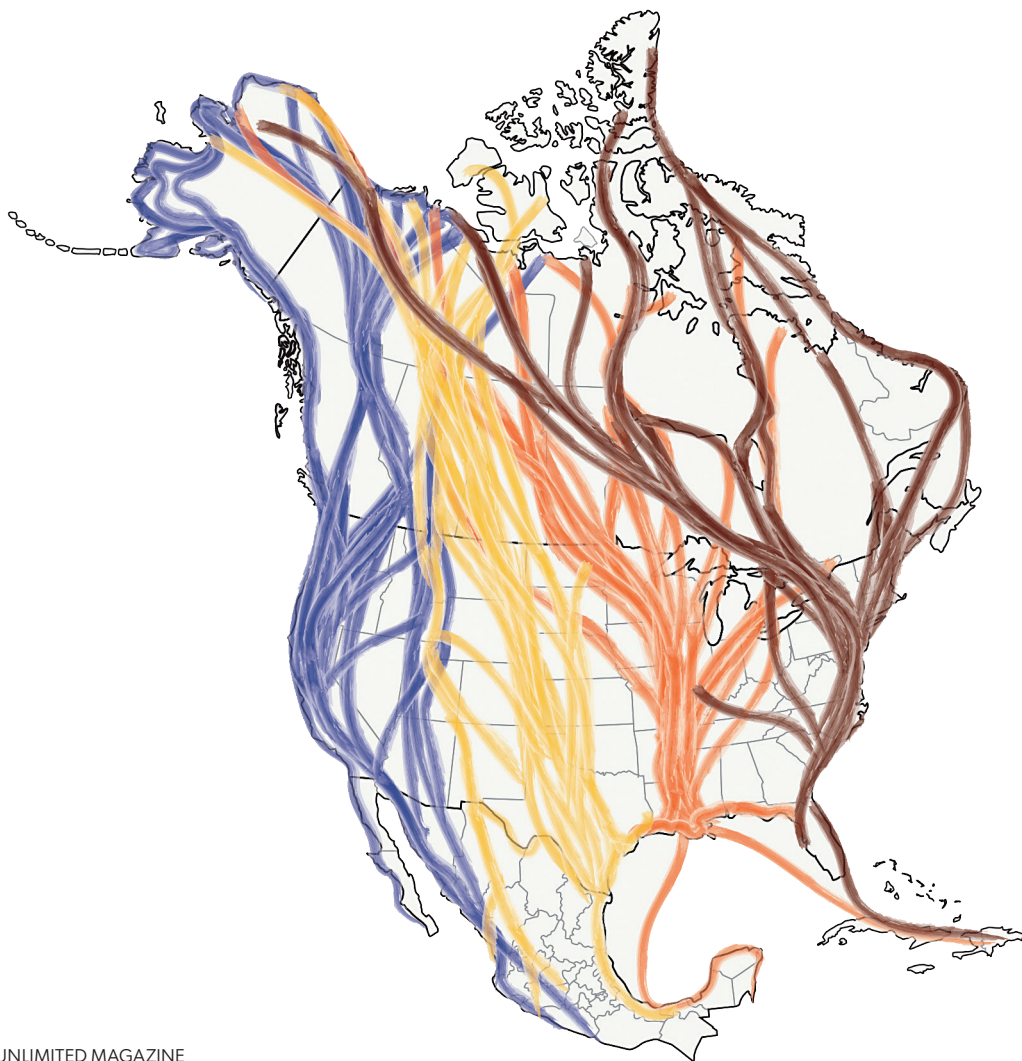


HIGHWAYS IN THE SKY

THE NORTH AMERICAN FLYWAYS

IN THIS EXCERPT FROM HIS NEW BOOK,
ONE OF *DUCKS UNLIMITED*'S MOST PROLIFIC CONTRIBUTORS
TELLS THE STORY OF OUR CONTINENT'S WINGED TRAVELERS
AND THEIR AMAZING JOURNEYS



MISSISSIPPI FLYWAY



Wood duck

The Mississippi River runs like a gigantic artery through the flyway that bears its name. Traveling 2,300 miles from its source in the upper reaches of Minnesota to the Mississippi Delta, the river is a vital highway for ducks, geese, and swans moving to their wintering grounds in the fall and returning to their breeding grounds in the spring. Within the boundaries of the Mississippi Flyway lie five of the largest freshwater lakes on the planet—Lakes Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie, and Ontario—as well as more wetlands than in any other flyway.

Mississippi Flyway breeding habitats encompass Arctic tundra, Boreal Forest, parklands, and eastern portions of the Prairie Pothole Region. Also within its boundaries are the tributaries and floodplains of the mighty Mississippi River and the coastal marshes of Louisiana. The flyway has no endemic species—none that remain exclusively within the flyway. But when it comes to the total number of wintering waterfowl, this flyway ranks above all the others and is the winter home to nearly half of North America's mallards.



Prairie wetlands, Manitoba



Western grebes



Forested swamp, Missouri



White River, Arkansas



Steller's eiders, Alaska



Harlequin ducks



Great Salt Lake, Utah



Eurasian wigeon



Aleutian cackling geese



King eider