

Hill 9 Oct, good totals this fall. Water Pipit: last IB 22 Nov, late. N. Shrike: arr Carlton, over 15 reports this season.

VIREOS-WARBLERS: **WHITE-EYED VIREO:** one Manitou 29 Oct (EB, WS), record late, banded, photographed and released. Philadelphia Vireo: last Cobb's Hill 9 Oct. Orange-crowned Warbler: last Irondequoit 4 Oct. Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 90 Irondequoit 4 Oct, scarce.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Am. Tree Sparrow: arr two Pittsford 7 Oct. **SHARP-TAILED SPARROW:** two of an interior race Hogan Pt 1-7 Nov (MD, mob, ph); departure is record late by five days. Fox Sparrow: last Penfield 6 Nov. Dark-eyed Junco: one "Oregon Junco" Fairport 17 Nov (NK). Lapland Longspur: arr HBSP 28 Sep. Yellow-headed Blackbird: one Hamlin 7 Nov (RO); this species has had a good year in the Region. Red Crossbill: arr DE 15 Nov. Com. Redpoll: arr two Manitou 15 Oct, record early by two days. Pine Siskin: max 550 Manitou 11 Nov. Evening Grosbeak: arr two HBSP 15 Oct.

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REGION 3 – FINGER LAKES

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Temperatures in September were below the 30-year mean, and most of its precipitation fell during the latter half of the month. The first nine days of September were sunny, except for a cool front on 5 and 6 Sep which brought about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch of rain to the Region. Much colder air, with low temperatures in the 30's, followed fronts on 12 and 15 Sep. Little rainfall was associated with these cold fronts. Another front, spawned by the same system, became stationary across the State on 19 Sep and dominated the weather with clouds and showers for the remainder of the month. This extended period of rainy weather delayed harvesting of corn and hay silage, but crop yields and quality were normal. Strong thunderstorms, associated with the stationary front, brought over one inch of rain to the Region on 30 Sep and 1 Oct. Trees were blown down and there were power outages in Ithaca. This front finally moved out to sea on 4 Oct, followed by a cold front, freezing temperatures, and strong, gusty winds through 7 Oct. There were more cold fronts on 9 and 14 Oct which brought light rainfall, followed by a very sunny period from 18 through 25 Oct.

Cold fronts with light rainfall passed through on 26 and 29 Oct, when the following peak numbers were reported at MNWR: Gadwall 410, Am. Wigeon 470, Wood Duck 540, Canvasback 160. During the final week of October, the following wintering waterfowl were first reported: Oldsquaw, White-winged Scoter, Common Goldeneye, and Bufflehead. On 31 Oct most areas reported their lowest temperatures of the month. November was the coldest on record since 1980, and precipitation for the Region was normal. There were cold fronts with associated precipitation on 2 and 6 Nov, followed by a powerful cold front on the 9th which brought high winds of 40 to 50 mph. The first snow for the Region fell 11 Nov, with up to 5 inches reported. This was followed by an extended period of very cold temperatures through 25 Nov, including record-breaking low

temperatures in the Region on 20 Nov. On 26 Nov, a relatively warm front brought heavy rains and flooding along the Susquehanna River. Following this front, the weather was milder for the remainder of the month. Many waterfowl numbers peaked during November, with MNWR providing these maximum counts: Tundra Swan 30, Canada Goose 62,000, Mallard 47,000, Am. Black Duck 22,000, N. Pintail 40, N. Shoveler 130, Redhead 220, Ring-necked Duck 1100, Hooded Merganser 200, Com. Merganser 1100.

The highlight of the season was the shorebird habitat at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge created by drawing down the water level in the Mays' Point Pool. Throughout September and into the first weeks of October, hundreds of shorebirds totaling 23 species were observed resting and feeding upon the mudflats there. An immature Merlin was reported there from 6-8 Sep spooking the shorebirds into flight. It was last seen on 29 Sep. Shorebird numbers appear to have peaked on 7-8 Sep, when there were over 500 Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers, 20 Semipalmated Plover, 40 Lesser Yellowlegs, 15 Pectoral Sandpiper, and 125 Stilt Sandpiper. Five individuals or fewer of the following species were reported from Montezuma in Sep: Black-bellied and Lesser Golden-Plovers, Greater Yellowlegs, Hudsonian Godwit, Willet, Sanderling, Western, Baird's, and White-rumped Sandpipers, and Short-billed Dowitcher. Three individuals each of both Wilson's and Red-necked Phalarope were reported throughout Sep.

There was a spectacular migration of Com. Loon through the Region between 23 Oct and 10 Nov. This migration included large flocks of up to 300 birds, and a typical report included 100 birds. Contributors reported these flocks from Canandaigua, Keuka, and Cayuga Lakes, and included descriptions of the birds feeding, diving, and calling. The maximum number of 300 loons was reported 7 Nov from Canandaigua Lake.

There were three distinct clusters of warbler reports which appear to be associated with passing of cold fronts. One cluster of reports fell between 4-7 Sep, and included Blue-winged, Tennessee, Nashville, Magnolia, Cape May, Black-throated Blue, Pine, and Prothonotary Warblers. The second cluster of reports is from S. Sibley at Sapsucker Woods, who reported ten species of warblers in a single day during the week of 15 Sep. The third cluster of reports is during the final days of September and the first days of October, when a rainy stationary front halted migration before the front passed on 4 Oct. Reports during this period included waves of Cape May, Black-throated Blue, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Pine, Palm, Bay-breasted, Blackpoll, Black-and-white, Am. Redstart, Ovenbird, Com. Yellowthroat, Hooded, and Wilson's Warblers. S. Sibley reported 13 warbler species from Sapsucker Woods on 1 Oct. This period also saw the last reports of Scarlet Tanager and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Except for these periods, there were very few reports of warbler species. There were few reports of sparrow species as well.

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Abbreviations: SWS-Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary; MNWR-Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; FLNF-Finger Lakes National Forest.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: *intro*. Red-necked Grebe: 5 & 20 Oct Dryden Lake. Double-crested Cormorant: increasing in the MNWR area, max 95 on 8 Oct. Am. Bittern: single report 2 Nov MNWR. Great Egret: max 13 MNWR 8 Sep. Black-crowned Night-Heron: present all season MNWR, max 30 on 12 Nov. Snow Geese: virtually absent after 30 Sep, when a max 190 were at MNWR.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: There were no reports of raptor migration, and N. Harrier, Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawk, Goshawk, Red-tailed Hawk and Am. Kestrel were reported throughout the Region all season. Turkey Vulture: last 3 Nov. Bald Eagle: 2-3 MNWR all season. Red-shouldered Hawk: only report FLNF 2 Oct. Rough-legged Hawk: several scattered reports, particularly in Nov, hinted at the possibility of an invasion year. Ring-necked Pheasant: scarce and local. Wild Turkey: present all season throughout Region, and regularly reported in the vicinity of Watkins Glen SP. Red Phalarope: one MNWR 5 Oct, detailed report, including ph. Bonaparte's Gull: only three reports, last 19 Oct MNWR. Ring-billed Gull: reported all season in substantial numbers. "White-winged" gulls: no reports. Great Black-backed Gull: present all season in the Ithaca area, first report elsewhere Watkins Glen 30 Nov. Caspian Tern: all reports MNWR. Com. Tern: only two reports, MNWR 6 Sep and 20 Oct. Black Tern: no reports.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed and Yellow-billed Cuckoo: no reports. E. Screech-Owl: several reports throughout season, single occupying a wood duck nest box in Queen Catherine Marsh 22 Oct. Great Horned Owl: several reports all season and reported calling in Nov. Snowy Owl: reported Hayt's Corners 5 Nov, MNWR 30 Nov. Barred Owl: not reported outside the Ithaca area. Short-eared Owl: three Hayt's Corners 4 Nov, and reported there several times since. N. Saw-whet Owl: single report Connecticut Hill 25 Oct. Com. Nighthawk: very few reports, max 100 Elmira 5 Sep. Red-headed Woodpecker: two Ithaca 9 Sep, one in near Ithaca 18 Sep, one Sullivan's Monument 5 Oct, only reports. Red-bellied Woodpecker: not reported outside the Ithaca area. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: present all season throughout Region. Pileated Woodpecker: reported only in the Ithaca area.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: single report Aurora 11 Sep. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: departure is sole report. There were no Regional reports of Acadian, Alder, Willow, or Least Flycatcher. Horned Lark: several scattered reports, max 40 MNWR 18 Sep. Swallow peaks all MNWR 8 Sep: Purple Martin eight, Tree Swallow 1500, N. Rough-winged Swallow 100, Bank Swallow 30, Barn Swallow 100. Cliff Swallow: no reports. Fish Crow: last Ithaca 17 Nov. Com. Raven: single report two birds seen and heard Connecticut Hill 3 Nov. Red-breasted Nuthatch: present throughout Region in greater than usual numbers. Carolina Wren: territorial and present in good numbers throughout Region. Winter Wren: several late Sep/early Oct reports. Marsh Wren: present MNWR and Queen Catherine Marsh until Oct, no other reports. Golden-crowned Kinglet: present all season with substantial numbers reported during the first week of Oct. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: present throughout Region, last report Aurora 16 Nov. E. Bluebird: several scattered reports of six birds or more, max 20 Krum's Corners 19 Sep. Veery: all reports Ithaca area. Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr Ithaca 29 Sep, last 2 Oct FLNF, only reports. Swainson's Thrush: several scattered reports, last Ithaca 12 Nov, late. Hermit Thrush: several scattered reports, last Ithaca 20 Oct. Wood Thrush: not reported outside the Ithaca area. Am. Robin: throughout Region, including a fascinating report of "hundreds of a pale race" FLNF 19 Oct. Gray Catbird: reported as increasing, M. Lerch banded many more than usual, reported until 24 Nov. Brown Thrasher: three Sep reports from Ithaca, not reported elsewhere. Water Pipit: several reports, max 50 Elmira 18 Oct. Cedar Waxwing: present in substantial numbers following the abundant fruit and wild grape crop, max 100 MNWR 8 Sep. N. Shrike: two reports, one Elmira 21 Oct, one FLNF 30 Nov.

VIREOS-WARBLES: *intro*.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Dryden 18 Oct. Field Sparrow: last Ithaca 20 Oct. Song, Swamp and White-throated Sparrow were reported all season in the Ithaca area. White-crowned Sparrow: several October reports throughout the Region. Lapland Longspur: single report Ithaca 31 Oct. Snow Bunting: arr 26 Oct. Red-winged Blackbird: max 1000 MNWR 8 Sep. Rusty Blackbird: max 14 SWS 5 Nov. Com. Grackle: max 100+ Caton 1 Nov. Brown-headed Cowbird: present all season but few reports. N. Oriole: departure Ithaca sole report. Pine Grosbeak: no reports. Com. Redpoll: two eating weed seeds Mt Pleasant 22 Nov, only report. Pine Siskin: present throughout Region after mid-October. Evening Grosbeak: present throughout Region after 27 Oct.

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REGION 4 – SUSQUEHANNA

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After a cool end to August, temperatures at Binghamton were nearly normal for the first three weeks of September except for two short cool periods. Rainfall was well below normal. Due to an abnormal shift north in the jetstream, the last week of the month was very warm with eight consecutive days of above-average mean temperatures and record highs of 82° and 83° on 26 and 30 Sep, respectively. This week also was very wet, resulting in average rainfall by the end of the month. The warmth continued into the first four days of October, but the rest of that month mostly was cooler and drier than normal. Inconsequential cold fronts moved through about every seven days but created little notable bird movement. November started normally but turned nasty in time for Veteran's Day, giving us winter weather normally expected three weeks later. From 10 to 23 Nov there were eleven days with mean temperatures substantially below the norm, record lows of 16°, 12°, 15°, and 10° on 13, 14, 19, and 20 November, and 13.4 inches of snow. The month ended with a week of normal temperatures and precipitation 2.7 inches above normal – most of it snow!

There were few birds to be observed afield this fall. Waterfowl species were missed or their numbers were down. There were fewer reports of Pied-billed Grebe than in the previous two falls. Horned Grebe and Red-breasted Merganser were missed for the first time since 1982, Double-crested Cormorant for the first time since 1981, and Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, and Black Scoter for only the third time since 1978. The strong November cold fronts which push these species south also brought record cold and significant or total ice coverage to many of our small lakes, particularly in Chenango Co., by mid-month this year. Blue-winged and Green-winged Teal, N. Pintail, and Am. Wigeon, which are reported infrequently here, were not found this fall, perhaps due to the ice. Also