

Look at the way the species in Region 3 are reported.
Each is on its own line, but the font size is smaller.
Please tell us if you want all Regions to report this way.
Or, do you prefer the traditional way?
We would like to adopt a single format for all Regional Reports.
We would like to arrive at a decision before the next issue.
We want your comments.

REGION 3 - FINGER LAKES

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Wet weather conditions prevailed over the Finger Lakes Region during the fall of 1996. Certainly weatherwise the most newsworthy event of the season was the remnants of Hurricane Fran which brought high winds and heavy rains through the Region on 6-9 September. Throughout the entire month of September strong storms and heavy rain kept water levels high throughout the Region. The first Arctic air mass moved into the northeast on 4 October, and a high pressure on the 11th brought plummeting temperatures. A strong and very slow moving upper level disturbance moving through the northeast on 18-21 October brought heavy rain and flooding to the Region, and the passage of a cold front on the 30th brought heavy winds. A strong storm on 8-9 November brought intense flooding to the north end of Cayuga Lake and the Seneca River. Flood warnings remained in place for two weeks after. Finally, strong cold fronts passed into the Region on the 18th and again on the 26th.

The path of Hurricane Fran was west of the Finger Lakes Region. Consequently we did not see the influx of pelagic birds as was the case on Lake Erie and Ontario. However we did have a few interesting birds attributed to the hurricane. These included several reports of Laughing Gull in the Cayuga Lake Basin, and the observation of jaegers, probably Parasitic, in Ithaca and in the Chemung Valley.

For the fifth consecutive year the migration of Common Loons over Taughannock State Park on Cayuga Lake was observed. Bob Meade and others counted 10,400 Common Loons migrating between 20 October and 6 December. The peak migration of Common Loon was during the week of 10-16 November when 6,443 loons were counted.

The first reports of Trumpeter Swan at Montezuma NWR were in early July. Up to four individuals remained at the refuge through the entire fall period. There was some debate about the origin of these four birds. No tags or other markings were observed on the swans. Following a lead I contacted an individual who was involved in captive rearing of Trumpeter Swan at a private 80 acre pond near the Montezuma Refuge. I was informed that two pairs of Trumpeter Swans had been on this pond, the first pair since 1990. Both pairs of swans were purchased from a breeder in Pennsylvania. Since 1990 at least seven swans have fledged, and these were NOT pinioned and have since dispersed. Four of these, were thought to be at Montezuma, but this finding certainly raises the question as to the origins of the other breeding Trumpeter Swans in Upstate New York.

The largest flight of Broad-winged Hawks ever counted in the Region was made on 18 September from Mount Pleasant located near Ithaca. A total of 3885 hawks were counted by Bernie Guirey, Bill Evans and others. This greatly exceeds the previous Regional fall high of 1500 which was counted on 18-19 September 1960.

For the third consecutive year the fall shorebird migration was monitored by Steve Kelling and others at the Montezuma NWR and throughout the Cayuga Lake Basin (see table). Compared with the previous years, the number of species (26) and number of individuals was up. The five most common shorebirds in the Region were (in order): Killdeer, Lesser Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, and Semipalmated Sandpiper. Between the last week in August and the first week in September both number of species (20) and the number of individuals observed was at its maximum at the Mays Point Pool of the refuge. Of particular interest was the Regional high number of Buff-breasted Sandpipers (maxima five) observed between 18 August and 8 September.

An event that begins in August and continues through mid October is the concentration of swallows at the Montezuma Refuge. Probably millions of swallows, of six species, use the refuge as a roost. Tree Swallows use the refuge in particular. It is a spectacle to watch these swallows land in the marshes. Each evening they literally look like a funnel cloud of swallows as they concentrate and then land en masse. Observers this year estimated hundreds of thousands of Tree Swallows at the refuge. But this is not a recent development. Thirty years ago Walter Benning estimated that over 600,000 Tree Swallows were at the refuge on 28 September.

There were several good passerine waves in mid-September. On September 10 Ken Rosenberg and mob located 18 species of warblers at Sapsucker Woods in Ithaca. Noteworthy, a Connecticut Warbler and Golden-winged Warbler were observed. On that evening Bill Evans and others listened to a tremendous passage of nocturnal migrants from Mt. Pleasant. Heard were hundreds of

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, and many Swainson's Thrushes, Veerys and Wood Thrushes. Then on 16 Sep Jack Brubaker located a warbler flock of 11 species in Texas Hollow. Most notable was a Golden-winged Warbler.

John Gregoire of Kestrel Haven Farm Migration Observatory near Burdett reports that it had its second best banding season in 10 years. While species diversity was low, numbers were high. A high number of both Yellow-rumped Warbler and Common Yellowthroat contributed to the high totals. Also of interest was a high number of Acadian Flycatchers banded.

As well as those birds already mentioned, there were other interesting bird observations which included: Little Blue Heron, Cattle Egret, Greater White-fronted Goose, Lesser Black-backed Gull, **Three-toed Woodpecker**, **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow**, and Dickcissel.

Abbreviations: AB - Aurora Bay, CL - Cayuga Lake, DL - Dryden Lake, KF - Kings Ferry, MWG - Mundy Wildflower Garden Cornell University, TSPLW - Taughannock State Park Loon Watch on Cayuga Lake, NSL - North Seneca Lake, SSL - South Seneca Lake, SP - Newman Golf Course, White Lighthouse Jetty, and Stewart Park, SW - Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology at Sapsucker Woods, ITH - Ithaca, MNWR - Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, MtP - Mt. Pleasant Dryden, MP - Myers Point Lansing, ATM - Allen Treman Marina Ithaca.

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LOONS- WATERFOWL:

Red-throated Loon: arr CL 1 Nov; max ten TSPLW 3 Nov; last TSPLW 24 Nov.

Com. Loon: 258 SCL 1 Nov (JB!); 3206 TSPLW 11 Nov; 2778 TSPLW 14 Nov.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 16 MNWR 28 Sep.

Horned Grebe: arr CL 10 Oct; max 8 AB 23 Nov.

Double-crested Cormorant: max (flight) 965 SP 23 Sep; last (flight) 30 SP 6 Nov.

Am. Bittern: nocturnal migrants ITH 9-10 Sep; one MNWR 5 Oct; last SW 22 Oct (BE!), unusually late.

Least Bittern: one Queen Catherine Marsh 3 Sep.

Great Blue Heron: >50 MNWR 10 Sep; 43 (migrating) CL 10 Oct; singles through Region after 31 Oct.

Great Egret: max 15 MNWR 10-29 Sep; last MNWR 28 Oct.

Little Blue Heron: one imm Waterloo 11 Oct (FB!).

Cattle Egret: one Phelps 28 Oct (FB!).

Green Heron: max 25 MtP, nocturnal migrants; last MtP 9 Nov (MR!), unusually late.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: max six MNWR 10 Sep; last Maclean Bog 16 Nov, late.

Tundra Swan: arr MP 3 Nov; max 306 MNWR 10 Nov.

Trumpeter Swan: four MNWR thru, probable escapes.

Mute Swan: one MNWR 10 Nov.
Greater White-fronted Goose: one MNWR 7-13 Oct, almost a yearly occurrence in the 90's.
Snow Goose: max migrating 1980 CL; singles CL after 10 Nov.
Brant: arr SP 3 Oct; max 300 migrating DL 3 Nov; last MP 28 Nov.
Canada Goose: max migrating 9200 SP 23 Sep; 5600 MNWR 10 Nov; 2100 DL 25 Nov.
Green-winged Teal: numerous MNWR through Sep; last MNWR 10 Nov.
Am. Black Duck: max 468 MNWR 10 Nov; 177 AB 23 Nov.
N. Pintail: max migrating 110 CL.
Blue-winged Teal: 15 MNWR 10 Sep.
N. Shoveler: max 30 MNWR 22 Oct.
Gadwall: max 25 MNWR 2 Oct.
Am. Wigeon: max 200 MNWR 28 Sep; 20 MNWR 10 Nov.
Canvasback: arr CL 23 Sep; max 800 MNWR 10 Nov; common CL thru.
Redhead: arr MP 31 Oct; scattered thru.
Ring-necked Duck: max 86 MNWR 10 Nov.
Greater Scaup: arr CL 11 Oct; scattered thru.
Lesser Scaup: arr CL 3 Nov; scattered thru.
Oldsquaw: arr DL 6 Nov; max 75 SP 13 Nov; three Eldridge Lake 25 Nov.
Black Scoter: ten TSPLW 24 Oct; 30 MP 7 Nov.
Surf Scoter: one DL 11 Oct; two ATM 12 Oct; one SP 4 Nov.
White-winged Scoter: arr CL 30 Sep; four MP 29 Oct; two SSL 31 Oct- 5 Nov.
Com. Goldeneye: arr NSL 20 Oct; max 48 AB 23 Nov.
Bufflehead: arr CL 11 Oct; max 48 AB 23 Nov;
Hooded Merganser: max 54 SP 13 Nov; 45 DL 25 Nov.
Com. Merganser: max 40 MNWR 10 Nov.
Red-breasted Merganser: max six TSPLW 16 Nov.
Ruddy Duck: arr CL 10 Oct; max 29 MNWR 10 Nov.

HAWKS-ALCIDS:

Turkey Vulture: max 63 (migrating) CL 11 Oct; 45 migrating TSPLW 24 Oct.
Osprey: 22 MtP 18 Sep; 35 CL 30 Sep.
Bald Eagle: two MtP 18 Sep; MNWR thru.
N. Harrier: 11 CL 30 Sep; 17 CL 11 Oct.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: 16 MtP 18 Sep; 48 CL 11 Oct.
Cooper's Hawk: singles thru.
N. Goshawk: one Queen Catherine Marsh 2 Sep.
Red-shouldered Hawk: six CL 11 Oct; last Newtown Creek 28 Oct.
Broad-winged Hawk: 3885 MtP 18 Sep. Regional record high!
Red-tailed Hawk: one albino MtP 18 Sep; 29 CL 30 Sep; 86 CL 11 Oct.
Rough-legged Hawk: one dark morph Dryden 19 Sep (CS!), very early; three dark morph Caroline 17 Nov.
Golden Eagle: two CL 11 Oct (AF!); one Kashong Pt. 30 Oct (FB!).
Am. Kestrel: max 19 CL 11 Oct.
Merlin: arr MNWR 5 Sep; scattered thru.
Peregrine Falcon: arr MNWR 5 Sep; max three CL 30 Sep; two MNWR 8-13 Oct; one Queen Catherine Marsh 8 Oct; one Elmira 20 Oct.
Ring-necked Pheasant: two KF 3 Nov. only report!
Ruffed Grouse: one ITH 2 Oct; one DIL woods 16 Oct. only reports!
Wild Turkey: four SW 27 Sep; 42 Bishop Preserve Geneva 15 Nov.
Am. Coot: 100 MNWR 22 Oct; 98 SP 9 Nov; 375 MP 19 Nov.

Cayuga Lake Basin/ Montezuma NWR Fall Shorebird Survey

	<u>Arrival</u>	<u>Max - Date</u>	<u>Departure</u>
Black-bellied Plover	17 Aug	11 - 11 Oct	2 Nov

Am. Golden-Plover	18 Aug	6 - 6 Sep	2 Nov
Semipalmated Plover	27 Jul	38 - 18 Sep	11 Oct
Greater Yellowlegs	18 Jul	56 - 21 Aug	3 Nov
Lesser Yellowlegs	18 Jul	196 - 3 Sep	2 Nov
Solitary Sandpiper	12 Jul	8 - 30 Jul	27 Aug
Hudsonian Godwit	8 Sep	19 - 10 Oct	11 Oct
Ruddy Turnstone	31 Jul	2 - 27 Aug	15 Sep
Sanderling	25 Jul	6 - 20 Sep	11 Oct
Semipalmated Sandpiper	13 Jul	95 - 27 Aug	13 Oct*
Western Sandpiper	25 Aug	4 - 20 Sep	11 Oct
Least Sandpiper	7 Jul	123 - 27 Aug	2 Oct
White-rumped Sandpiper	21 Aug	72 - 18 Sep	2 Nov
Baird's Sandpiper	2 Aug	7 - 27 Aug	11 Oct
Pectoral Sandpiper	31 Jul	91 - 8 Oct	16 Oct
Dunlin	18 Sep	121 - 11 Oct	2 Nov
Stilt Sandpiper	14 Jul	30 - 17 Sep	11 Oct
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	18 Aug	5 - 6 Sep**	8 Sep
Short-billed Dowitcher	7 Jul	5 - 21 Aug	29 Sep
Long-billed Dowitcher	15 Sep	11 - 5 Oct	2 Nov
Common Snipe	22 Jul	9 - 27 Aug	25 Sep
Wilson's Phalarope	18 Aug	-	27 Aug
Red-necked Phalarope	18 Aug	-	19 Aug

* Region extreme late

**record number for Region

Am. Woodcock: three Waterloo 18 Nov.

Jaeger, possible Parasitic: one dark morph juv SP 18 Sep (SD!, BE!); one EL 20 Sep (DR!).

Laughing Gull: one Dryden 10 Sep (RP); one MP 13 Sep (KD).

Bonaparte's Gull: arr MNWR 11 Oct; max 41 SP 1 Nov.

Ring-billed Gull: 2130 Lansing 29 Sep; 5000 AB 5 Oct; 1500 MP 14 Nov; 994 TSPLW 16 Nov.

Herring Gull: 120 CL 11 Oct; 1000 SP 20 Nov; 1000 MNWR 23 Nov.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: arr one ad MNWR 18 Sep; two, adult and first winter MNWR 29 Sep (AF, BR).

Great Black-backed Gull: 20 MNWR 29 Sep; eight SP 15 Nov.

Caspian Tern: max 12 MNWR 10 Sep.

Forster's Tern: one MNWR 30 Sep (KD).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS:

E.Screech Owl: one IT 5 Nov, only report.

Great Horned Owl: max four IT 5 Nov.

Barred Owl: one Ringwood Preserve 9 Oct.

Long-eared Owl: one MtP 8-10 Oct; one IT 16 Nov.

Short-eared Owl: two Geneva 25 Nov.

Com. Nighthawk: one MP 4 Sep; last CL 10 Oct.

Whip-poor-will: one West Danby 2 Sep (GK).

THREE-TOED WOODPECKER: one Naples 25 Sep (BL!), excellent description.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one SP 20 Nov.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS:

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one SP 2 Sep.

Acadian Flycatcher: high number banded (JG, no details).

Horned Lark: scattered after 29 Sep.

Purple Martin: 126 SP 5 Sep; last MNWR 29 Sep.

Tree Swallow: >100,000 MNWR 8 Oct.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: 23 Cayuga Lake Basin 29 Sep.

Bank Swallow: last Lansing 29 Sep.

Cliff Swallow: last Lansing 29 Sep.
Blue Jay: 432 migrating CL 11 Oct.
Fish Crow: SP thru.
Com. Raven: one Caroline 13 Oct; one Watkins Glen 21 Oct; one Bath mid-Oct; one DL 6 Nov; scattered Chemung Valley 26 Sep thru.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: one IT 25 Nov; one Harris Hill 23 Nov. only reports.
Carolina Wren: one MWG 18 Sep; one SP 10 Oct; one Watkins Glen 17 Oct; one Ellis Hollow 27 Oct; one Newtown Creek 22 Sep-13 Oct.
Winter Wren: one SW 4 Oct; one SP 4 Oct; one SP 18 Nov.
Marsh Wren: last Queen Catherine Marsh 11 Sep.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr SW 18 Sep; last SP 20 Oct.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: last MNWR 13 Nov (GC), late.
E. Bluebird: 110 (migrating) Cayuga Basin 29 Sep; 74 CL 11 Oct.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: last three Beebe Lake 10 Oct.
Swainson's Thrush: 17 Ringwood Preserve 11 Oct. last.
Hermit Thrush: eight Tompkins Co Airport 15 Oct.
Wood Thrush: 25 Caroline 21 Sep.
Am. Robin: 143 migrating CL 11 Oct.
N. Mockingbird: four SP period; scattered thru.
Am. Pipit: one SP 22 Sep; one 54 KF 10 Nov; last MP 27 Nov.
Cedar Waxwing: numerous throughout Region.
N. Shrike: one SW 15 Oct; one MtP 13 Nov.
European Starling: 400,000 (est) Cayuga 25 Nov (FB!).

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS:

Philadelphia Vireo: arr SW 10 Sep; max three SW 15 Sep; last MWF 26 Sep.
Golden-winged Warbler: one SW 10 Sep; one Texas Hollow 16 Sep.
"Brewster's" Warbler: one SW 10 Sep.
Tennessee Warbler: arr SW 6 Sep.
Orange-crowned Warbler: one SP 3 Sep (AW!), early; one AB 16 Sep; one SP 20 Nov (BE!), late.
N. Parula: arr MWF 7 Sep; last SP 4 Oct.
Cape May Warbler: one MWG 18 Sep. only report.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 43 CL 11 Oct; 13 SP 23 Nov.
Blackburnian Warbler: max 5 SW 10 Sep.
Pine Warbler: one Ellis Hollow 10 Nov.
Prairie Warbler: one SP 7 Sep. only report.
Palm Warbler: arr Dryden 24 Sep; last MP 13 Oct.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr SW 8 Sep; max six SW 10 Sep.
Blackpoll Warbler: arr SW 5 Sep; max five SW 10 Sep.
Ovenbird: last Dryden 3 Nov (KM!), late.
CONNECTICUT WARBLER: one SW 10 Sep (KR!); one Larch Meadows, ITH 11 Sep (MF!).
Hooded Warbler: one IT 2 Sep.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS:

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: >100 (nocturnal migrants) Mt.P 10 Sep.
Indigo Bunting: last Elmira 6 Oct.
Dickcissel: one King Ferry 25 Sep (BE!); one Lansing 1 Nov (BE!).
Am. Tree Sparrow: arr MP 3 Nov; 9 SP 23 Nov.
Chipping Sparrow: 25 ATM 11 Oct; last Ellis Hollow 10 Nov.
Vesper Sparrow: last MP 17 Oct.
Savannah Sparrow: last SP 9 Nov.
Henslow's Sparrow: one Caroline 21 Sep (SK!).
NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW: one ATM 27 Oct (SK!).
Fox Sparrow: less common than last fall; last report Ellis Hollow 12 Nov.

Lincoln's Sparrow: one Caroline 21 Sep; one ATM 29 Sep. only reports.

White-throated Sparrow: one SW 5 Sep; common after 4 Oct.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr SP 5 Oct.

Lapland Longspur: two CL 11 Oct; one KF 13 Oct.

Snow Bunting: arr MP 29 Oct; max 25 MP 10 Nov.

Bobolink: >50 (nocturnal migrants) Dryden 9 Sep. last.

Red-winged Blackbird: >1000 MNWR 8 Oct; >5000 MP 10 Nov.

E. Meadowlark: seven ATM 11 Oct; one Geneva 29 Nov.

Rusty Blackbird: arr MNWR 25 Sep; max 25 SW 4 Oct.

Com. Grackle: 3000 MP 10 Nov; 35,000 Waterloo 11 Nov.

Purple Finch: three SW 4 Oct; one Ellis Hollow 27 Oct; six Caroline 24 Nov; five Watkins Glen 27 Nov. only reports!

Pine Siskin: several Naples 15 Nov.

Summer 1996 Additions:

ANHINGA: one Niemi Rd Lansing 10 Jun (NYSARC, D. Hasselquist). 1st Regional record.

Clay-colored Sparrow: one Canandaigua 12 Jun (mob).

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