



REGION 3—FINGER LAKES

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Fall 2013 brought very average weather conditions to Region 3. September, October, and November each brought 4-5 inches of rain, almost exactly the long-term average for the Region. September and October also had near average temperatures, and November was slightly colder than average.

The migration season yielded few unexpected species, and numbers for relatively common species seemed on the low side. Waterfowl, in particular, showed high counts that were lower than the typical high counts. Despite these trends, however, decent numbers of shorebirds continued at Montezuma through September, and some passerines lingered past their expected departure dates into November.

One of these lingering passerines was a **Yellow Warbler** that Chris Wood found on 27 October. The bird was inhabiting a brushy area with water behind Wegmans grocery store in Ithaca. This discovery seemed to pique the interest of many other grocery shopping birders, and the area yielded some other unusual

finds during the season, including an “**Audubon’s**” **Yellow-rumped Warbler** on 14 November and an extremely late **House Wren** on 21 November.

Once again this season, some unusual species were detected by nocturnal flight call. Chris Tessaglia-Hymes heard and recorded a **Barn Owl** flying over his roof-top microphone in Etna on 27 September. Furthermore, there were **11** reported **Dickcissels** in September and October, almost all of which were detected by nocturnal flight call.

As mentioned above, waterfowl numbers were on the low side this season. There was one **Greater White-fronted Goose** at Knox-Marcellus Marsh on 9 September, but no others were reported all fall. A few single **Ross’s Geese** were seen with the flocks of **Snow Geese** in October and November. A **Eurasian Wigeon** that had been found at Knox-Marcellus Marsh at the end of August stayed though 2 September, but was not seen afterward.

The **American White Pelican** that arrived at Knox-Marcellus Marsh on 21 July was joined by a second bird on 14 September. Both birds stayed through 26 October. Two **Cattle Egrets** visited the Region in early November. Marty Schlabach found the first in Romulus, Seneca County, on 2 November; this bird was seen again on 3 November. Meanwhile, Ben Freeman found a second **Cattle Egret** at Treman SP on 3 November. These birds showed different plumage characteristics so were confirmed to be separate individuals.

Observers reported at least three individual **Plegadis** ibises at Montezuma this fall. Chuck Gibson found the first two on 17 October: a first-year **Glossy Ibis** and an apparent first-year **White-faced Ibis** foraging together at the Montezuma Wildlife Drive. The Glossy Ibis lingered through 19 November, but the White-faced Ibis disappeared after 22 October. However, on 27 October, a new White-faced Ibis appeared. This bird was a second-year, so clearly a different individual from the previous. Pending review, these records would constitute the second and third records of White-faced Ibis in the Region.

This season brought the first ever regularly seen **Black Vultures** to the Region. These birds initially appeared at the Compost Piles in Ithaca at the end of August and continued through 24 October. Black Vulture sightings have been increasing in the Region for the past few years, and are expected to continue to increase as the species’ range continues expanding north.

Montezuma’s Knox-Marcellus Marsh continued to be a shorebird hotspot through September. A **Whimbrel**, originally found in August, continued through 22 September, and **Hudsonian Godwits** were seen regularly between 18 September and 19 October. A juvenile **Red Knot** stopped by on 1 and 2 September, and a **Sanderling** did likewise on 15-17 September. Finally, a **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** continuing from August lingered through 9 September.

A **Rufous Hummingbird** graced David Kennedy’s feeders in Seneca Falls from 13 October-23 November. The hummingbird was banded on 16 November and was determined to be a hatch-year female. The bird is thus a different individual than the one banded in Interlaken last fall, which was also a hatch-year female.

As in most years, there were a few scattered reports of **Connecticut Warbler** this fall. Jay McGowan found one bird at the Roy H. Park Preserve on

5 September, and Ben and Alexa Freeman found two at Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve on 27 September. One of these birds was seen again on 28 September. Elisabeth Paulson took some excellent photographs of a **Kentucky Warbler** visiting her patio near Corning on 8 November. This species is rare in the Region at any time of year, so this November record is particularly unusual. Finally, and perhaps one of the rarest finds of the season, Tom Schulenberg found a female **Blue Grosbeak** at Bluegrass Lane in Ithaca on 12 October. Although the bird was secretive, many observers got to see it before its disappearance on 17 October.

249 species were reported this fall.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BlueLn – Bluegrass Lane, TOMP; Compost – Cornell University Compost Piles near Game Farm Rd, TOMP; CU Camp – Cornell University Campus, TOMP; DryLake – Dryden L, TOMP; Hog Hole – Treman Marina SP, TOMP; Knox-Mar – Knox –Marcellus Marsh area, CAYU (includes Towpath and East Roads); LPBP – Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve, TOMP; MWR – Montezuma NWR, CAYU (includes Visitor Center and Wildlife Drive); MyPt – Myers Point, TOMP; ParkPres – Roy H. Park Preserve, TOMP; SaW – Sapsucker Woods, Ithaca, TOMP; StP – Stewart P, TOMP; Wegmans – Wegmans Grocery Store, Ithaca, TOMP.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: Knox-Marcellus 9 Nov (CW), only report.

Snow Goose: max 11500 Interlaken SENE 29 Nov.

Ross's Goose: first Knox-Mar 2 Oct; last Knox-Mar 2 Nov.

Eurasian Wigeon: Knox-Mar thru 1-2 Sep (mob).

Am. Black Duck: max 350 MWR 3 Nov.

Lesser Scaup: first Hog Hole 4 Sep, early.

Red-breasted Merganser: first MyPt 3 Sep.

Red-necked Grebe: first Lakefront Park ONTA 5 Oct, early.

Am. White Pelican: 2 Knox-Mar thru 1 Sep-26 Oct, *intro*.

Least Bittern: Knox-Mar 1 Sep, only report.

Cattle Egret: Romulus SENE 2-3 Nov (MS, mob); Hog Hole Nov 3 (mob).

Green Heron: last StP 7 Nov, late.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 89 Knox-Mar 7 Sep, high count.

Glossy Ibis: MWR 17 Oct-19 Nov (CG, mob), first-year.

WHITE-FACED IBIS: MWR 17 Oct-22 Oct (CG, mob), 1st yr; MWR 27 Oct-19 Nov, 2nd yr.

Black Vulture: max 3 Compost 22 Oct; last Compost 24 Oct, continuing from summer.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Golden Eagle: first SaW 10 Oct, early.

Virginia Rail: last DryLake 16 Oct, late.

Sora: last DryLake 20 Oct, late.

Sandhill Crane: max 40 Knox-Mar 25 Nov.

Am. Golden-Plover: max 54 Knox-Mar 1 Sep.

Upland Sandpiper: CU Camp 13 Sep, only report.

Whimbrel: Knox-Mar 1-22 Sep, continuing from August.

Hudsonian Godwit: max 7 Knox-Mar 17 Sep.

Red Knot: Knox-Mar 1-2 Sep (mob).

Sanderling: Knox-Mar 15-17 Sep (mob).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: Knox-Mar 1-9 Sep, continuing from August.

Pectoral Sandpiper: max 250 Knox-Mar 9 Sep.

Ring-billed Gull: Rafferty Rd. CAYU 9 Nov, high count.

Iceland Gull: Compost 24 Nov, only report.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: max 3 Compost 26 Oct.

Com. Tern: last Lower Lake Rd. SENE 6 Oct.

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Barn Owl: Etna TOMP 27 Sep (CTH), flight call.

Snowy Owl: Clifton Springs ONTA 30 Nov, first of winter invasion.

Long-eared Owl: ParkPre 28 Oct, only report.

Short-eared Owl: Stewart Ave TOMP 23 Oct; Ovid 24 Nov.

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD: Seneca Falls 13 Oct-23 Nov (DK), visiting feeders.

Red-headed Woodpecker: last Mays Pt Pool CAYU thru 26 Sep.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: last SaW 20 Sep.

E. Wood-Pewee: last Tarreyton Dr. TOMP 14 Oct.

Blue-headed Vireo: max 9 Shindagin Hollow TOMP 1 Sep.

Fish Crow: max 23 Compost 5 Oct, high count.

Horned Lark: max 250 Interlaken SENE 27 Nov, high count.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 21 Hammond Hill SF TOMP 5 Sep.

House Wren: last Ithaca Wegmans 21 Nov (CW), very late.

Marsh Wren: last Freese Rd. TOMP 20 Nov, late.

E. Bluebird: max 29 MyPt 29 Oct, high count.

Hermit Thrush: last Hile School Rd Wetland TOMP 23 Nov.

Brown Thrasher: last Monkey Run TOMP 15 Oct.

Am. Pipit: max 140 Interlaken SENE 2 Nov.

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: first Knox-Mar 6 Oct, early.

N. Waterthrush: last Purvis Road TOMP 2 Nov (KM), very late.

Golden-winged Warbler: Tareyton Park TOMP 1 Sep, only report.

Connecticut Warbler: ParkPre 5 Sep; 2 LPBP 27-28 Sep.

Kentucky Warbler: Tall Meadow Ct. STEU 8 Nov (EP).

Am. Redstart: max 23 SaW 5 Sep.

Cape May Warbler: max 17 Dodge Rd. TOMP 7 Sep.

N. Parula: last CU Camp 23 Oct, late.

Yellow Warbler: last Wegmans 27 Oct-23 Nov (CW, mob), very late.

“AUDUBON’S” YELLOW-RUMPED

WARBLER: Wegmans 14 Nov (mob).

Black-throated Green Warbler: Long Point SP CAYU 2 Nov (mob), late.

Canada Warbler: max 6 Hawthorn Orchards TOMP 17 May (JM).

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Chipping Sparrow: last Ithaca 24 Nov, late.

Field Sparrow: last Freeville Marshes TOMP 23 Nov (CW), late.

Vesper Sparrow: last 4 BlueLn 2 Nov (TS), late.

Savannah Sparrow: last BlueLn 29 Nov, late.

Grasshopper Sparrow: last Triticum Dr TOMP 17 Oct, late.

Nelson's Sparrow: first Cornell Research Ponds TOMP 28 Sep; last Freese Rd TOMP 16 Nov (SK, TS), late.

Song Sparrow: max 128 BlueLn 5 Oct, high count.

Lincoln's Sparrow: last Wegmans TOMP 17 Nov, late.

BLUE GROSBEAK: BlueLn TOMP 12-17 Oct (mob).

Dickcissel: last StP 24 Oct (TL).

E. Meadowlark: last 2 Lake Ridge Rd. CAYU 16 Nov (BM, JC), late.

Baltimore Oriole: last Hawthorn Orchards TOMP 19 Oct (CW), late.

Pine Siskin: first Knox-Mar 10 Sep (DK).

