

REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

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This has been the coolest, wettest summer in the memory of most residents. Rainfall has been far above normal, and the temperature has reached 90 degrees only a few times all summer. My own thermometer in Etna dipped to the 30s in late June and again in early August. Birds were generally late in nesting. All reports indicated fewer young birds around than usual in late summer. Certain species were almost missing from regular stations, which might indicate a wiping out of small local populations.

LOONS — DUCKS: A young Common Loon was seen Jul 20 near Branchport (C. Spiker), the first summer record there in at least seven years. Great Blue Herons seemed to pick up in numbers at Montezuma Refuge (J. Walker), were scarcer in

ome reporting areas. American Egrets were about in usual numbers at the Refuge, and one was seen at Big Flats July 21 (M. Welles). Four Least Bitterns were seen on a pond west of Keuka Park Aug 12 (F. Guthrie). Redheads, Lesser Scaups and Ruddy Ducks nested at Montezuma (Walker). Two Redheads were seen by F. Gambrell on Seneca Jul 28, and two Goldeneyes by Ward on Aug 15. More unusual was the occurrence of a pair of Goldeneyes on the Chemung River at Elmira from May 19 to Jun 19 (K. Fudge). The female left on Jun 12, the male being seen the extra week after that.

HAWKS — OWLS: Turkey Vultures near Avoca Jul 15 (E. Atwood). Marsh Hawks were rare along Keuka Lake (Guthrie). Other Hawks seemed in usual numbers throughout the region. Sparrow Hawks raised four young in a newly-erected Martin House along Seneca (Mrs. J. Darling). Ring-necked Pheasants were scarce at Geneva, but abundant in the Watkins-Montour area (Bardeen). Rails, both Virginia and Sora, seemed down in numbers. Upland Plovers were reported from new stations. Guthrie found seven adults — at least two pairs had young — in the "Italy Hills" region near Keuka. The first "fall" reports of Caspian Terns were of two on Jul 25 at north end of Seneca Lake (Ward) and one on Jul 28 at the south end of Cayuga (Kellogg). Mourning Doves were abundant everywhere. Barn Owls which are probably often overlooked were reported from new stations. Screech Owls were scarcer than usual, unless they too were less vocal because of cool temperatures.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: Chimney Swifts were not so numerous as usual around Geneva and Waterloo (Walker). Pileated Woodpeckers are reported from more stations, while there were fewer reports of Red-headed Woodpeckers again this year around Ithaca. One bird, still showing some juvenile plumage, spent a week in the cemetery at Etna in mid-June. A pair was found nesting on the Welles farm at Elmira, with small young on Aug 6. Kingbirds were unusually common around Keuka (Guthrie).

Purple Martins increased along Keuka Lake, perhaps due to more boxes being put up (Guthrie), also increased along the canal at Waterloo (Walker). A pure white swallow, species unknown, was seen by Orcutt and others at Penn Yan Aug 8, and another one (or possibly the same bird) was reported from Gorham a week later. Blue Jays seemed more common in residential areas this summer everywhere. Usually they retire to the woods or parks, returning to feeders in the fall. House Wrens picked up in numbers at Waterloo (Walker), were spotty, missing from some stations around Ithaca and Etna. At least two pairs of Carolina Wrens nested successfully along west shore of Seneca this year (J. Bardeen).

A Mockingbird was observed in Geneva from Jun 1 to 17 (L. Ward), and Brown Thrashers were commoner than usual around Geneva. Robins, Wood Thrushes and Veeries were abundant at Waterloo (Walker), but at Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary there was a decided drop in the thrush population this summer. Robins in Etna had poor nesting success and few young were to be seen in late summer. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers nested successfully this year in the Keuka College woodlot (Guthrie). A Ruby-crowned Kinglet was seen along Newtown Creek Aug 9 by K. Fudge.

WARBLERS — SPARROWS: The Worm-eating Warbler had one young still in nest at Elmira on Jun 23 (O. York). Myrtle Warblers were found at two locations at Caroline, and on Connecticut Hill in June (Hewitt) but no nests located. Redstarts were very spotty around Ithaca. A Yellow-breasted Chat was noted from Jun 7-22 inside Geneva, the first report in some years from the Geneva area (F. Gambrell). Cardinals continue to increase at Geneva. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were locally scarce around Ithaca. Vesper Sparrows were more abundant than usual at Avoca (Atwood). Savannah Sparrows up in numbers at Avoca (M. Carter), Grasshopper Sparrows in good numbers at Avoca and at Keuka, still down in numbers around Ithaca. Henslows Sparrows increasing around Keuka, in good numbers at Ithaca, missing around Geneva. Juncos were seen feeding young on Harris Hill July 28 (A. Fudge).

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