

REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

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To quote one observer, the summer was characterized by "lousy, wet weather." The month of June was somewhat of an exception, being drier than average, but still cooler than usual. Precipitation for June was one to two inches below normal, with temperatures 2-3°F cooler than thirty-year averages. Indeed, much of Region 3 posted mild to moderate drought conditions for June, according to the Palmer Drought Severity Index. July and August made up for June's moisture deficit, however. It was the coldest and wettest July since records began to be kept in 1895, with precipitation totals five to seven inches above normal and temperatures 2-4°F below average for the month. August continued the summer's cold, wet pattern. An especially strong storm front passed across the region with heavy rains and brisk northwesterly winds on 28 and 29 Aug, in the wake of the effects of Hurricane Andrew, bringing many migrant shorebirds into the region. Overall the summer period of June through August was the third coldest on record.

The usual intensive coverage of Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge produced a number of interesting reports. N. Brinkley reported young of Wood Duck, Green-winged Teal, American Black Duck, Mallard, Northern Shoveler, Blue-winged Teal, Gadwall, American Wigeon, **Canvasback**, Hooded Merganser and Common Merganser. Other waterfowl of interest included N. Pintail, Redhead and Common Goldeneye. In general, heavy summer rains and high water levels kept numbers of shorebirds at MNWR to a minimum, though there was a reasonable variety of species represented throughout July and August. Among shorebird reports from this period were Black-bellied Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, Least Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, and Common Snipe. Osprey again nested on the refuge, and two or three Bald Eagle were present all summer. Other noteworthy observations include **Rough-legged Hawk** in June, and successfully nesting **Sedge Wren**.

Interesting summer reports of waterfowl elsewhere in the Region included a **Red-necked Grebe** and several summering Horned Grebe. Strong northwesterly winds in the wake of hurricane Andrew at the end of August possibly accounted for **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** and **Whimbrel** on the Savannah mucklands north of Montezuma NWR. Notable land bird reports include successfully nesting **Long-eared Owl**, as well observations of **Ringed Turtle-Dove**, **Loggerhead Shrike**, and **Dickcissel**.

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Abbreviations: CH - Connecticut Hill Wildlife Management Area; CL - Cayuga Lake, DL - Dryden Lake; MNWR - Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; MPt - Myers Point, on east shore of CL; SL - Seneca Lake; StP - Stewart Park, at south end of CL.

Summer reports: **Com. Loon:** one-five SL all summer; one MPt 20 Jul. **RED-NECKED GREBE:** one Canoga on CL 25 Jul (BG). **Pied-billed Grebe:** nested Corning Pd and Big Flats marsh (DC). **Horned Grebe:** two Elmira 8 Jun, ad Alt MNWR 20 Jun-15 Aug, two ad Alt SL near Geneva 4 Jul. **Double-crested Cormorant:** max 25 StP 16 Aug. **Am. Bittern:** one MNWR 15 Jul. **Great Egret:** max 16 MNWR 25 Aug. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** two ad Elmira throughout period, no evidence of nesting; three StP 16 Aug. **N. Pintail:** ad male MNWR 6 Jul. **CANVASBACK:** FL MNWR, third nesting record there. **Redhead:** MNWR last week of Aug. **Com. Goldeneye:** MNWR last week of Aug. **Com. Merganser:** two broods of 10 and 11 y Chemung R between Elmira and Wellsburg 20 Jun. **Red-breasted Merganser:** one MPt 28 Jul, one StP 20 Aug.

Osprey: *intro*; one StP 18 Aug, one Aurora on CL 21 Aug, 4 Chemung R 20 Aug. **Bald Eagle:** *intro*; ad Big Flats 8, 13, 14 Jul, ad Sullivanville Dam 11 Jul. **Sharp-shinned Hawk:** one seen taking nestlings from nest of Mourning Dove and of American Robin in Elmira 14, 15, 15 Jun. **N. Goshawk:** ad female Cornell Campus 24 Aug (NB). **Broad-winged Hawk:** one CH 26 Jul. **ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK:** ad light morph 4, 9, 15 Jun MNWR (NB, mob). **Virginia Rail:** one DL 29 Jun. **Sora:** one MNWR 15 Jul. **WHIMBREL:** one Savannah

mucklands n MNWR 29 Aug (AF). **Ruddy Turnstone**: one MPt 31 Jul (KD). **Red Knot**: 250 MNWR 6 Jun. **Sanderling**: one MPt 1 Aug and 4 MPt 19 Aug (KD). **Least Sandpiper**: max ten MPt 28 Aug. **Baird's Sandpiper**: four MNWR 24 Aug (KD, WE). **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: max six MPt 28 Aug. **W. Sandpiper**: max three MPt 28 Aug (KD). **Stilt Sandpiper**: one MNWR 30 Aug (KD). **BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER**: one Savannah mucklands n of MNWR 29 Aug (AF). **Bonaparte's Gull**: two-eight MNWR 15 Jul-30 Aug (NB), one MPt 22 Jul (KD). **Caspian Tern**: CL and MNWR 1 Jul-30 Aug; max 35 MPt 23 Aug; one Elmira 28 Aug, where unusual. **Black Tern**: two MNWR 8 Jun and 22 Jul. **Com. Tern**: three MNWR 22 Jul. **Forster's Tern**: one MPt 24 Aug (KD, mob).

Ringed Turtle-Dove: one at feeder Elmira mid Jun to late Aug, doubtless an escape. **Long-eared Owl**: pair with five y Seneca Falls (FB). **Com. Nighthawk**: only migratory groups reported 18-27 Aug, max 150 Elmira 22 Aug. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: one Rothermich Road Tomp mid-Jul, one Prott's Hill Tomp 2 Aug.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: one Lansing 26 Aug (KD). **Acadian Flycatcher**: small population established CH (WE). **Purple Martin**: max 450+ MNWR 24 Aug. **Bank Swallow**: about 50 active nests along Chemung R between Elmira and Wellsburg. **Cliff Swallow**: several nesting colonies under bridges in and around Elmira (DD). **Com. Raven**: two Big Flats in Jun; two Sullivanville Dam 18 Aug. **Winter Wren**: singing males at three different Elmira area locations Jun and Jul. **SEDGE WREN**: singing male MNWR 18 May-30 Jul; ad with y MNWR 15 Aug (JW). **LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE**: one Farley's Pt CL 19 Jul (AF).

Golden-winged Warbler: none! **Prothonotary Warbler**: possible nesting along Erie Canal at Armitage Road, near MNWR, 9 and 12 Jun (JB). **Worm-eating Warbler**: ad feeding three y Southport 29 Jul and 1 Aug (DC).

DICKCISSEL: four males and one female along Route 34 South Lansing Tomp 18 Jun-15 Aug, but no evidence of nesting (WB, mob).

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