

REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

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Weather conditions in the Finger Lakes Region were especially interesting in 1994 due to the tranquil nature of the season. No significant cold fronts passed through the Region until the last week in November! September weather was normal. Although the month started on the cool side, by mid month temperatures moderated. The only significant weather events were a cold front on 9 Sep and a coastal storm on 22 Sep. October was exceptionally dry with only 2 inches of precipitation, which was 2 inches below normal. Wind direction, as measured at Taughannock State Park, was southerly through most of October. November did not bring its usual late autumn weather to the Region. Instead the temperature remained 4°F above normal. On 23-24 Nov, a strong cold front packing northwest winds, with gusts up to 40 mph, moved through the Region.

Kestrel Haven Migration Observatory, located between Seneca and Cayuga Lake, banded over 2000 birds in their fall season. John Gregoire reported the banding operation was at a record pace until mid October. After this date the number of netted birds dropped off dramatically due to the late and reduced influx of winter resident birds such as American Tree Sparrow and Slate-colored Junco. The steady decline in the numbers of Field Sparrow banded there since 1987 saw a rebound in numbers captured. This increase was thought to be due to fewer cuttings of hay due to heavy rains in August. Many observers spent numerous September nights watching or listening to the bird migration. In particular, thrushes were heard in migration throughout the month of September. Ken Rosenberg reported a thrush flight in which he heard 380 thrush calls in 35 minutes on 30 Sep. Of these call notes, half of the them were from Swainson's Thrush, and a quarter each from Gray-cheeked Thrush and Wood Thrush. The fall warbler and sparrow passage through the Region was long and protracted, with many species remaining past their average late dates. Particularly notable were Yellow Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler and a Common Yellowthroat.

Raptor and waterfowl movements through the region were delayed or nonexistent. The hawk watch at Mount Pleasant near Ithaca did not see any large flights of Broad-winged Hawk, in contrast to past years. All three accipiters were reported as singles only. The fall migration of Common Loon occurred two weeks later this year, and it was not until the last week in November with the passage of the strong cold front that a large flight was observed. Over half of the Common Loon counted at

the Taughannock State Park Loon Watch on Cayuga Lake were associated with the passage of the front. However, the number of loons, 5800, counted was almost 2000 loons less than was counted last year. The migration of Common Loon was also monitored from Seneca Lake during November. There, Jack Brubaker and Bill Evans in particular, counted over 2500 Common Loon.

The most exciting area to bird in the Region was Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. Tremendous numbers of waterfowl and gulls, most notably *Ross's Goose*, Eurasian Wigeon, and Lesser Black-backed Gull, were observed on the main pool. Most species of waterfowl were present in substantial numbers at the season's end. Tens of thousands of Tree Swallow roosted in the marsh in the early part of the season. These were replaced by millions of blackbirds, particularly Red-winged Blackbird, late in the season. The draw down of May's Point Pool produced a tremendous bird diversity through November. Up to 16 species of shorebird, over 10 species of waterfowl, 3 species of falcon and the highlight of two *Sandhill Crane* among numerous others bird species were observed at May's Point Pool. The managers at the refuge did an exceptional job promoting bird diversity at the refuge.

The migration of shorebirds was monitored at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge by Steve Kelling, Ken Rosenberg and others. The refuge was visited 11 times between 1 Sep and 12 Nov. Over 5000 individuals of 25 species were counted. Of interest was the large number of Lesser Yellowlegs and Pectoral Sandpiper. The numbers of these 2 species were much higher than those counted by Davis and Morris at Jamaica Bay National Wildlife Refuge (see *Kingbird* fall reports between 1980 and 1988). This indicates that the Montezuma refuge is on an inland migratory route. Birds on this route benefit from intense shorebird habitat management, due to the constantly diminishing inland shorebird habitat available.

A total of 224 bird species was seen during the season. Birds of interest not already mentioned included Eared Grebe, Red-necked Grebe, Cattle Egret, Little Blue Heron, Golden Eagle, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Connecticut Warbler, Dickcissel, and Henslow's Sparrow.

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Abbreviations: CLB - Cayuga Lake Basin; CH - Connecticut Hill State Forest; CV - Chemung Valley; CWG - Cornell University

Wildflower Garden; FLNF - Finger Lakes National Forest; HH - Hog Hole, Cass Park Marina, Ithaca; KHMO - Kestrel Haven Migration Observatory, Hector; MNWR - Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; MPt - Myers Point, Lansing; StP - Stewart Park, Ithaca; SW - Sapsucker Woods Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology Ithaca; TCa - Town of Caroline, TOMP; TSPLW - Taughannock State Park Loon Watch, 9 Oct-27 Nov; WG - Watkins Glen.

Fall reports: **Com. Loon:** max 993 TSPLW 23 Nov (TN), 852 Seneca L 24 Nov (JB, BE). **Red-throated Loon:** 13 TSPLW 2-26 Nov. **Pied-billed Grebe:** max 100 MNWR 13 Sep. **Horned Grebe:** max four TSPLW 26 Nov. **Red-necked Grebe:** five TSPLW 1-26 Nov, more than unusual. **Eared Grebe:** one Ithaca Yacht Club 12 Nov (SK). **Double-crested Cormorant:** max 100 MNWR 24 Sep; 60 StP 7 Nov; last 6 TSPLW 24 Nov. **Am. Bittern:** three MNWR 11 Sep. **Least Bittern:** last MNWR 5 Sep. **Great Blue Heron:** max 100 MNWR 2 Oct; numerous CV 30 Nov. **Great Egret:** max 18 MNWR 18 Sep; three MNWR 15 Oct; last MNWR 28 Oct. **Cattle Egret:** one Lansing 5 Nov (KM). **Little Blue Heron:** mottled imm Flint 1 Oct (JB). **Green Heron:** singles MNWR through Sep, last Ithaca 30 Sep (KR). **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** five Elmira 5 Sep; max 12 MNWR 2 Oct. **Tundra Swan:** ten MNWR 4 Nov; max 160 MNWR 20 Nov. **Snow Goose:** two MNWR 2 Oct; max 250 TSPLW 2 Nov. **Ross's Goose:** ad light morph MNWR 5 Nov (TB). **Brant:** 35 TSPLW 10 Oct; max 349 TSPLW 2 Nov; last 11 TSPLW 11 Nov. **Canada Goose:** arr CV 30 Sep; max 2500 MNWR 20 Nov; large flight KHMO 25 Nov. **Wood Duck:** max 100 CV 8 Oct. **Green-winged Teal:** max 450 MNWR 3 Nov; last MNWR 30 Nov. **Am. Black Duck:** max 50 Aurora Bay 29 Oct. **Mallard:** max 2000 MPt 25 Nov. **N. Pintail:** one MNWR 18 Sep; max 323 TSPLW 27 Oct. **Blue-winged Teal:** max ten MNWR 18 Sep; last StP 25 Nov, late. **N. Shoveler:** 25 MNWR 18 Sep, max 50 on 20 Nov. **Gadwall:** one MNWR 18 Sep, max 81 on 12 Nov. **Eurasian Wigeon:** two MNWR 29 Oct. **Am. Wigeon:** 30 MNWR 18 Sep, max 1500 on 15 Oct. **Canvasback:** ten MNWR 24 Sep, max 2334 on 12 Nov, 1500 on 20 Nov. **Redhead:** 15 MNWR 13 Oct, max 69 on 12 Nov. **Ring-necked Duck:** arr MNWR 24 Sep, max 150 on 20 Nov. **Greater Scaup:** five MNWR 24 Sep, max 500 on 20 Nov. **Lesser Scaup:** two MNWR 2 Oct, max 250 on 29 Oct, last on 12 Nov. **Oldsquaw:** three TSPLW 22 Oct; nine TSPLW 12 Nov; last TSPLW 20 Nov. **Black Scoter:** two TSPLW 27 Oct; five TSPLW 13 Nov. **Surf Scoter:** two MNWR 2 Oct; nine TSPLW 25 Oct. **White-winged Scoter:** four Aurora Bay 2 Oct, 50 TSPLW 11 Nov; last TSPLW 16 Nov. **Com. Goldeneye:** one MNWR 12 Nov, max 3 on 20 Nov, scarce. **Bufflehead:** two MNWR 29 Oct; max 45 Cayuga L 12 Nov, 30 MNWR 20 Nov. **Hooded Merganser:** two MNWR 29 Oct; max 80 MNWR 11 Nov; 20 StP

26 Nov. **Com. Merganser**: three Cayuga SP 22 Oct; max 35 MNWR 12 Nov. **Red-breasted Merganser**: max 10 MNWR 29 Oct. **Ruddy Duck**: eight MNWR 13 Oct; max 390 on 11 Nov, 125 on 20 Nov.

Turkey Vulture: ten Elmira 5 Sep; max 13 Lansing 22 Oct; last 3 TSPLW 21 Nov. **N. Harrier**: max 12 near Geneva 26 Nov. **Bald Eagle**: 1 CV early Oct; max five ad MNWR 3 Nov, present entire period. **Red-shouldered Hawk**: singles Mt Pleasant mid Sep, numbers low throughout Region!. **Rough-legged Hawk**: arr TCa 12 Nov, KHMO 17 Nov. **Golden Eagle**: two KHMO 5 Sep, very early; max four Mt Pleasant 1 Oct (AF). **Merlin**: singles MNWR 4 Sep, CLB through mid Sep. last SW 4 Nov (KR, mob). **Peregrine Falcon**: imm MNWR 4 Sep-24 Sep (JC, mob); two CV 5 Sep; dark headed female MNWR 29 Oct-12 Nov (KR, SK, mob). **Ruffed Grouse**: max ten Phelps 18 Sep. **Wild Turkey**: max 100 KHMO. **Virginia Rail**: one Savannah 18 Sep (KR). **Com. Moorhen**: two MNWR 2 Oct; last eight Big Flats 8 Oct. **Am. Coot**: two MPt 2 Oct; max 500 CLB 29 Oct, 490 MNWR 12 Nov, 200 MPt 26 Nov. **Sandhill Crane** two ad MNWR 28 Oct-30 Nov (mob). **Black-bellied Plover**: four MNWR 18 Sep, last 4 on 15 Oct. **Am. Golden-Plover**: three MNWR 11 Sep, last and max six on 15 Oct. **Semipalmated Plover**: max 23 MNWR 11 Sep. last two on 7 Oct. **Killdeer**: max 132 MNWR 29 Oct. **Greater Yellowlegs**: max 40 MNWR 11 Sep, last 15 on 29 Oct. **Lesser Yellowlegs**: max 100 MNWR 7 Sep, last 35 on 29 Oct. **Spotted Sandpiper**: singles MPt 24 Sep, CV 9 Oct. **Sanderling**: several Kashong Pt Seneca L 4 Sep. **Red Knot**: one MNWR 28 Aug-7 Sep (KD). **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: max 92 MNWR 2 Sep. **W. Sandpiper**: max two MNWR 7 Sep, last on 11 Sep. **Least Sandpiper**: max 53 MNWR 7 Sep. **White-rumped Sandpiper**: max 8 MNWR 7 Sep, last on 29 Oct. **Baird's Sandpiper**: max two MNWR 7 Sep, last two on 22 Oct. **Pectoral Sandpiper**: max 90 MNWR 11 Sep, last 65 on 29 Oct. **Dunlin**: arr MNWR 11 Sep, max 44 on 22 Oct. **Stilt Sandpiper**: max 20 MNWR 11 Sep, last on 22 Oct. **Buff-breasted Sandpiper**: one Chiropractic College Seneca Falls 13 Sep (JG). **Short-billed Dowitcher**: last MNWR 7 Sep. **Long-billed Dowitcher**: max 11 MNWR 7 Sep, last MNWR 29 Oct. **Com. Snipe**: max 19 MNWR 12 Nov. **Am. Woodcock**: last MNWR 12 Nov. **Wilson's Phalarope**: two MNWR 11 Sep. **Red-necked Phalarope**: last MNWR 24 Sep. **Bonaparte's Gull**: two MNWR 2 Oct; one WG 2 Nov; last TSPLW 10 Nov. **Ring-billed Gull**: max 5000 Ithaca Yacht Club 23 Nov (TN). **Herring Gull**: max 500 e side Cayuga L 20 Nov. **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: ad MNWR 24 Sep-12 Nov. **Great Black-backed Gull**: max 20 east side of Cayuga L 20 Nov. **Caspian Tern**: max and last three MNWR 2 Oct.

Black-billed Cuckoo: last HH 11 Sep (TE). **E. Screech-Owl**: two WG SP 15 Sep. **N. Saw-whet Owl**: juv netted Prattsburg 11 Sep (BM). **Barred**

Owl: one CH 5 Sep, only report! **Long-eared Owl:** one KHMO 19 Nov. **Short-eared Owl:** arr TSPLW 10 Nov; five King Ferry 29 Nov; four Seneca Falls Airport 30 Nov. **Com. Nighthawk:** max 50 Elmira 8 Sep; last Dryden L 25 Sep. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** last Ithaca 15 Oct, very late. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** three CH 5 Sep; three Cornell Plantations 30 Sep; one Phelps 30 Nov, late. **N. Flicker:** arr KHMO 12 Nov.

E. Wood-Pewee: low numbers KHMO through 29 Sep. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** one CH 5 Sep; two SW 7 Sep; last KHMO 20 Sep; more than usual. **Traill's Flycatcher:** last KHMO 30 Sep. **Purple Martin:** one KHMO 1 Oct; six MPt 16 Oct. **N. Rough-winged Swallow:** max 50 MNWR 24 Sep, last five on 2 Oct. **Bank Swallow:** one CH 5 Sep; 10 MNWR 18 Sep; last MNWR 2 Oct. **Am. Crow:** 450 KHMO late Sep. **Fish Crow:** two STp 16 Oct. **Com. Raven:** two CV early Sep; one FLNF 2 Oct; one KHMO 13 Nov. **Carolina Wren:** fewer reports from Geneva. **Winter Wren:** one SW 27 Sep; three Southport 1 Oct; two HH 21 Oct; one Queen Catharine Marsh 16 Nov; KHMO 25 Nov. **Marsh Wren:** five MNWR 11 Sep; last HH 21 Oct. **Golden-crowned Kinglet:** arr KHMO 11 Oct; max four HH 16 Oct. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** arr CH 5 Sep; arr KHMO 27 Sep, remained through period. **E. Bluebird:** max 30 CV 12 Oct. **Veery:** max 10 CH 5 Sep; 1 CV 10 Sep; last KHMO 11 Sep. **Gray-cheeked Thrush:** arr KHMO 10 Sep; several SW 24 Sep; last SW 30 Sep. **Swainson's Thrush:** arr SW 18 Sep; numerous SW 30 Sep. **Hermit Thrush:** three CH 5 Sep; one TCa 22 Oct; last KHMO 7 Nov. **Wood Thrush:** two SW 15 Sep. **Am. Robin:** flocks of 100+ TSPLW Nov. **Gray Catbird:** max 10 TCa 10 Sep. **Brown Thrasher:** last CV 18 Sep, only report. **Am. Pipit:** arr MNWR 11 Sep; max 360 KHMO 6 Nov; last MNWR 20 Nov. **Cedar Waxwing:** 50 CH 5 Sep; 200 banded! KHMO late Oct. **N. Shrike:** arr FLNF 17 Nov, TCa 17 Nov; one Freeville 20 Nov.

Solitary Vireo: max four CV 24 Sep. **Yellow-throated Vireo:** singles only. **Warbling Vireo:** singles only. **Philadelphia Vireo:** max six CH 5 Sep; last two SW 20 Sep. **Red-eyed Vireo:** max five SW 9 Sep. **Blue-winged Warbler:** singles only. **Tennessee Warbler:** max two SW 6 Sep. **Orange-crowned Warbler:** singles KHMO 4 Sep, TCa 17 Sep, SW 24-30 Sep, SW 4 Oct. **Nashville Warbler:** max three TCa 17 Sep. **N. Parula:** max 15 CWG 16 Sep (SK, TE). **Yellow Warbler:** 1 KHMO 1 Sep; very late straggler adult male, vocalizing MNWR 5 Nov (TL). **Chestnut-sided Warbler:** max three CWG 16 Sep. **Magnolia Warbler:** max ten CH 5 Sep. **Black-throated Blue Warbler:** max five SW 20 Sep. **Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max 20 CLB 2 Oct. **Black-throated Green Warbler:** max 5 CH 5 Sep; very late straggler CV 15 Nov (DC). **Blackburnian Warbler:** max 2 SW 12 Sep. **Prairie Warbler:** one CWF 16 Sep; two SW 20 Sep; last CV 23

Sep. **Pine Warbler**: one MPt 2 Oct; last CV 2 Oct. **Palm Warbler**: arr CWG 16 Sep; two SW 22 Sep; last SW 23 Sep. **Bay-breasted Warbler**: max three SW 6 Sep. **Blackpoll Warbler**: arr KHMO 8 Sep; max four SW 12 Sep. **Black-and-white Warbler**: singles only. **Ovenbird**: max six SW 15 Sep. **Connecticut Warbler**: two CWG 16 Sep (SK, TE); one Ellis Hollow 1 Oct (LS). **Mourning Warbler**: last KHMO 18 Sep. **Com. Yellowthroat**: max 50 CH 5 Sep; one KHMO 25 Oct; last MNWR 20 Nov (KR), very late. **Hooded Warbler**: one KHMO 22 Sep; last SW 30 Sep. **Wilson's Warbler**: two SW 5 Sep. **Canada Warbler**: singles only.

Scarlet Tanager: max three CH 5 Sep. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**: numerous SW 6-21 Sep; last KHMO 2 Oct. **Indigo Bunting**: two TCa 17 Sep; last KHMO 22 Sep. **Dickcissel**: one Lansing 7 Oct (BE). **Rufous-sided Towhee**: last KHMO 6 Nov, record numbers banded, scarce elsewhere. **Am. Tree Sparrow**: arr KHMO 3 Nov. **Chipping Sparrow**: max 20 MPt 2 Oct; last SW 11 Oct. **Field Sparrow**: max 8 MPt 2 Oct; last KHMO 16 Nov. **Savannah Sparrow**: max 20 Kings Ferry 24 Sep; last Canoga 22 Oct. **Grasshopper Sparrow**: singles KHMO 6 Sep, 2 Oct. **Henslow's Sparrow**: one KHMO 1 Sep. **Fox Sparrow**: several FLNF 30 Oct; one Fayette 20 Nov. **Song Sparrow**: max 20 MPt 24 Sep. **Lincoln's Sparrow**: singles only. **Swamp Sparrow**: max 15 MNWR 18 Sep. **White-throated Sparrow**: arr two SW 22 Sep; max 10 SW 15 Oct. **White-crowned Sparrow**: arr two MPt 2 Oct, scarce. **Lapland Longspur**: one Kings Ferry 6 Oct, four on 7 Oct; 1 MPt 24 Nov. **Snow Bunting**: 45 TSPLW 9 Nov; 50 MNWR 12 Nov. **Bobolink**: only report SW 8 Sep. **N. Oriole**: singles only. **Red-winged Blackbird**: 1,000,000+ MNWR Oct-Nov. **E. Meadowlark**: two MPt 2 Oct; last CV late Oct. **Rusty Blackbird**: arr two MPt 24 Sep; max 125 SW 16 Nov, 30 on 22 Nov. **Com. Grackle**: thousands MNWR Oct-Nov. **Purple Finch**: several SW through Sep- Oct; 1 SW 4 Nov; entire period KHMO. **Pine Siskin**: 50 Lansing 22 Oct. only report. **Am. Goldfinch**: 25 CH 5 Sep; unusually low numbers KHMO; stable CV. **Evening Grosbeak**: 11 TSPLW 11 Nov; one Bristol 27 Nov.

Corrigendum: *Kingbird* 44(3):213. Blackpoll Warbler arr 14 May, not 1 May.

Addenda: *Kingbird* 44(3):214. **Hoary Redpoll**: KHMO 16 Mar (JG, NYSARC). *Kingbird* 44(4):ppp. **Swainson's Hawk**: KHMO 3 Jun (JG, NYSARC).

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