

REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

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Weather during the summer of 1995 continued the hot and dry pattern that has prevailed through the year. The Finger Lakes suffered extreme drought conditions, as the region received only 50- 70% of the normal precipitation for the period. Temperatures remained above average, with temperatures between 3° and 4° above normal.

Two concerted efforts were made to census the bird life in the Region. Specifically, Steve Kahl did a breeding bird census at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, and Ken Rosenberg and Steve Kelling with the assistance of the Cayuga Bird Club organized a bird count in the Ithaca Christmas Bird Count circle. Kahl found 118 species nesting at the refuge. The five most frequently found species at MNWR were in order: Song Sparrow, American Robin, Yellow Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, and Red-winged Blackbird. Over 51 observers participated in the Ithaca count on 17 Jun. These observers recorded over 21,500 birds of 138 species in a 24 hour period. The five most common species found were in order: Red-winged Blackbird, European Starling, American Robin, Song Sparrow, and Yellow Warbler. Even more interesting was comparing these results with a count made on 17 Jun 1978 in the same count circle. When the data are normalized, Canada Goose, Turkey Vulture, Veery, Wood Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Blue-winged Warbler, Ovenbird, Swamp Sparrow, and House Finch exhibited dramatic increases. On the down side Mallard, American Kestrel, Chimney Swift, Northern Flicker, Purple Martin, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Prairie Warbler, Canada Warbler, Grasshopper Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, and Purple Finch exhibited dramatic declines. Some of these increases and declines may be attributed to the loss of farmlands and the increase in mature forests.

There have been some notable increases in breeding birds in the Region. Common Raven successfully reared young in at least four locations. Acadian Flycatcher has become more numerous. Worm-eating Warbler successfully fledged young in the Cayuga Lake Basin, an event that has not been documented in some time.

The fall dispersal of birds began early, possibly due to the severe drought conditions in the area. John and Sue Gregoire banded over 1000 individuals of over 60 species at Kestrel Haven Migration Observatory during July and August. During late August sizable flights of migratory birds were noted. In particular, Veery was noted during several evenings

during the third week in the month. While shorebird management strategies at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge were unchanged from last year, numbers were drastically reduced. In particular Lesser Yellowlegs and Pectoral Sandpiper numbers were down 75% from last year.

A total of 174 species of birds was reported. In addition to the species already mentioned, the many interesting highlights include Glossy Ibis, Bald Eagle, Ruff, and Lesser Black-backed Gull.

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Abbreviations: CLB - Cayuga Lake Basin; CV - Chemung Valley; FLNF - Finger Lakes National Forest; IJC - Ithaca June Count, within the Ithaca Christmas Bird Count circle, 17 June; KHMO - Kestrel Haven Migration Observatory (banding records for the summer season); MBBS - MacDougall Breeding Bird Census (near Geneva) 25 June; MPt - Myers Point, Lansing; MNWR - Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; OBBS - Orleans Breeding Bird Census (north of Keuka College) 10 June; QCM - Queen Catharine Marsh, Montour Falls; SW - Sapsucker Woods, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology; WG - Watkins Glen.

Summer reports: **Com. Loon:** IJC. **Pied-billed Grebe:** nested MNWR, CV. **Double-crested Cormorant:** one CV 13 Jun, early; six MNWR 12 Jul; 15 WG 16 Aug; 30 Ithaca 30 Aug. **Am. Bittern:** two MNWR 30 June; two QCM 21 Jul- 3 Aug. **Great Egret:** two MNWR 31 Jul; max nine MNWR 20 Jul. **Green Heron:** 24 IJC. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** three CV 23 Jul; nested MNWR, QCM. **Glossy Ibis:** one MNWR 25 Aug (BE, CD). **Snow Goose:** two, one blue morph, MNWR all summer. **Canada Goose:** 347 IJC. **Wood Duck:** 97 IJC; max 100 MNWR 30 Jul. **Green-winged Teal:** one QCM 1 Jun and 28 Jul; MNWR summer. **Am. Black Duck:** MNWR summer. **Blue-winged Teal:** nested MNWR; four QCM 28 Jul. **Gadwall:** MNWR summer. **Am. Wigeon:** one MNWR 25 Aug. **Hooded Merganser:** nested CV, QCM. **Com. Merganser:** 15 WG 10 Aug; ten MPt 19 Aug; nested CV.

Turkey Vulture: max 24 IJC. **Osprey:** summer MNWR, CV; one Ithaca late Aug. **N. Harrier:** scattered nestings throughout Region. **Bald Eagle:** nested MNWR, two fledged. **Red-shouldered Hawk:** singles IJC, MBBS, Shindaigin Hollow 2 Aug, FLNF 29 Jul. **Broad-winged Hawk:** one Caroline 29 Jul; nested CV; Connecticut Hill 12 Jul; FLNF 20 Jun, 29 Jul. **Am. Kestrel:** max 15 FLNF 25 Jun. **Merlin:** one SW 30 Aug. **Ring-necked Pheasant:** 15 OBBS; 13 MBBS. **Ruffed Grouse:** eight IJC. **Wild**

Turkey: 17 ICJ. **N. Bobwhite:** two MBBS, probable escapes. **Virginia Rail:** nested MNWR, QCM, CV. **Sora:** nested MNWR, CV. **Com. Moorhen:** nested CV, MNWR, QCM; max 100 MNWR 25 Aug. **Am. Coot:** one MNWR 30 Jul; one Seneca L 30 Jul, early!. **Killdeer:** 16 OBBS; 22 MBBS; 116 IJC; 75 Kings Ferry 9 Aug; 70 MNWR 17 Aug. **Black-bellied Plover:** last MNWR 15 Jun; arr MNWR 17 Aug. **Am. Golden-Plover:** two Savannah mucklands 29 Aug. **Semipalmated Plover:** spring max 20 MNWR 4 Jun; last MNWR 15 Jun; arr three QCM 26 Jul. **Greater Yellowlegs:** last MNWR 1 Jun; arr MNWR 21 Jul; max 21 MNWR 27 Aug. **Lesser Yellowlegs:** last MNWR 15 Jun; arr MNWR 2 Jul; max 39 MNWR 22 Aug. **Solitary Sandpiper:** arr CV 5 July; max three MNWR 30 Jul. **Spotted Sandpiper:** nested CV, Ithaca, MNWR. **Upland Sandpiper:** one Aurora 2 Jun. **Ruddy Turnstone:** last MPt 9 Jun; arr two MPt 9 Aug. **Sanderling:** eight MPt 9 Aug; two MNWR 27 Aug. **Semipalmated Sandpiper:** last 20 MNWR 15 Jun; arr nine QCM 26 Jul; max 75 MNWR 30 Jul. **W. Sandpiper:** one MNWR 27 Aug. **Least Sandpiper:** arr QCM 1 Jul; max 60 MNWR 22 Aug. **White-rumped Sandpiper:** last MNWR 1 Jun; arr MNWR 30 Jul. **Baird's Sandpiper:** arr MNWR 10 Aug; max four MNWR 25 Aug. **Pectoral Sandpiper:** arr MNWR 21 Jul; max 25 MNWR 22 Aug. **Stilt Sandpiper:** arr MNWR 9 Aug; max seven MNWR 27 Aug. **Ruff:** reeve MNWR 21-23 Aug (JW, AW). **Short-billed Dowitcher:** arr MNWR 30 Jul. **Com. Snipe:** scattered MNWR, QCM, Sherwood. **Am. Woodcock:** two IJC; five SW 27 Aug. **Red-necked Phalarope:** two MNWR 28 Aug; **Wilson's Phalarope:** last MNWR 11 Jun (JW, AW); one MNWR 29 Aug (CD). **Bonaparte's Gull:** one MPt 12 Aug; one MNWR 25 Aug. **Ring-billed Gull:** 299 IJC; 122 MBBS; max 2500 Kings Ferry 20 Aug. **Lesser Black-Backed Gull:** ad *graellsii* MNWR 30 Aug (SK, JW). **Great Black-backed Gull:** two IJC; one MPt 30 Jul; one MWNR 20 Aug; one WG 22 Aug. **Caspian Tern:** arr Ithaca 13 Jul; max 41 (13 juv) Ithaca 16 Aug. **Com. Tern:** one MNWR 8 Jun; max ten MNWR 12 Jul. **Black Tern:** nested MNWR; three MNWR 30 Jul.

Black-billed Cuckoo: 19 IJC; scattered throughout Region. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** four IJC; four OBBS; one MBBS. **E. Screech-Owl:** three IJC. **Great Horned Owl:** three IJC. **Barred Owl:** three IJC. **Com. Nighthawk:** five CLB 27 Aug; 50 Elmira 30 Aug. **Chimney Swift:** 67 IJC; 17 MBBS. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** 40 IJC; 50 KHMO. **Belted Kingfisher:** 19 IJC; 4 MBBS; ten MNWR 30 Jul. **Red-headed Woodpecker:** one Ringwood Nature Preserve near Ithaca 10 Jun; one Ithaca 21 Jun; one Elmira 25 Aug. **Red-bellied Woodpecker:** 47 IJC; four OBBS. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** 28 IJC; Caroline all summer. **Downy Woodpecker:** 89 IJC. **Hairy Woodpecker:** 50 IJC. **Northern Flicker:** 69 IJC. **Pileated Woodpecker:** 23 IJC.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: one Lansing 19 Aug. **E. Wood-Pewee:** 173 IJC; 14 OBBS. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** one SW 24 Aug; one Prattsburg 27 Aug. **Acadian Flycatcher:** singles IJC, Michigan Hollow 5 June, Arnot Forest, Salmon Creek all summer, MNWR Jun. **Alder Flycatcher:** 45 IJC. **Willow Flycatcher:** 65 IJC; 17 OBBS. **Least Flycatcher:** 78 IJC; 20 KHMO. **E. Phoebe:** 172 IJC; 32 KHMO. **Great Crested Flycatcher:** 91 IJC; six OBBS. **E. Kingbird:** 59 IJC; 5 OBBS. **Horned Lark:** two Romulus 3 Jun; two IJC; 25 OBBS; five MBBS; 15 Savannah Mucklands 21 Aug. **Purple Martin:** ten IJC; 20 Shel Drake 25 Jun; ten Varick 26 Jun; 12 WG 18 Aug; >50 MNWR 30 Aug. **N. Rough-winged Swallow:** 64 IJC; 22 OBBS; >50 MNWR 30 Aug. **Bank Swallow:** 78 IJC; 103 MBBS; 2000 CLB 30 Jul. **Cliff Swallow:** four MBBS; four Speedsville 6 Jun; nested Ithaca, Italy summer; >300 Ithaca 28 Aug (BE); ten MNWR 30 Aug. **Barn Swallow:** 352 IJC; 34 MBBS; 38 OBBS. **Blue Jay:** 236 IJC. **Am. Crow:** 698 IJC. **Fish Crow:** six IJC. **Black-capped Chickadee:** 580 IJC. **Tufted Titmouse:** 127 IJC. **Red-breasted Nuthatch:** 21 IJC. **White-breasted Nuthatch:** 70 IJC. **Brown Creeper:** 23 IJC. **Carolina Wren:** six IJC; one Romulus 26 Jun; one MPt 8 Aug; two Trumansburg 25 Aug. **House Wren:** 390 IJC. **Winter Wren:** 18 IJC; two Arnot Forest 7 Jun; two WG 22 Jul. **Marsh Wren:** two IJC; one QCM summer; four Jubertown Swamp YATE 24 Jun; >six MNWR 26 Jun. **Golden-crowned Kinglet:** three IJC. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** 20 IJC; three Trumansburg 20 Aug; summer CV. **Eastern Bluebird:** 44 IJC. **Veery:** 307 IJC; 15 KHMO; >300 Caroline 24 Aug. **Swainson's Thrush:** three Caroline 24 Aug. **Hermit Thrush:** 26 IJC. **Wood Thrush:** 356 IJC. **Am. Robin:** 1167 IJC. **Gray Catbird:** 685 IJC; 100 KHMO. **N. Mockingbird:** 27 IJC; six MBBS. **Brown Thrasher:** 17 IJC; one Romulus 3 Jun; one FLNF 19 Jun. **Am. Pipit:** two MNWR 30 Aug. **Cedar Waxwing:** 395 IJC. **European Starling:** 1468 IJC.

Solitary Vireo: 37 IJC. **Yellow-throated Vireo:** 22 IJC. **Warbling Vireo:** 76 IJC. **Philadelphia Vireo:** one KHMO 30 Aug. **Red-eyed Vireo:** 506 IJC. **Blue-winged Warbler:** 67 IJC. **Golden-winged Warbler:** one Aurora 9 Jun (CD). **Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler:** Brewster's type FLNF 24 Aug, Prattsburg 27 Aug. **Nashville Warbler:** one IJC; 1 Prattsburg; nested CV. **N. Parula:** one Connecticut Hill 30 Aug. **Yellow Warbler:** 781 IJC; 40 MBBS; 63 OBBS; 114 KHMO. **Chestnut-sided Warbler:** 101 IJC; 14 KHMO. **Magnolia Warbler:** ten IJC. **Black-throated Blue Warbler:** 18 IJC. **Yellow-rumped Warbler:** 36 IJC. **Black-throated Green Warbler:** 83 IJC. **Blackburnian Warbler:** 11 IJC. **Pine Warbler:** two IJC; one WG Jun-Jul. **Prairie Warbler:** three IJC; eight Caroline Jun, three Arnot Forest 7 Jun; one Ithaca 24 Aug. **Cerulean Warbler:** one

MBBS; five MNWR summer; eight Salmon Creek. **Black-and-white Warbler:** 16 IJC. **Am. Redstart:** 160 IJC. **Worm-eating Warbler:** five West Danby 7 June; one Montour Falls 7 Jul. **Ovenbird:** 333 IJC. **Mourning Warbler:** nine IJC; two Caroline Jun; one Arnot Forest 3 Jul; one SW 21 Aug. **N. Waterthrush:** 19 IJC. **Louisiana Waterthrush:** 14 IJC. **Com. Yellowthroat:** 854 IJC; 93 KHMO, low total. **Wilson's Warbler:** arr SW 21 Aug, scattered reports thereafter. **Hooded Warbler:** nine IJC; one Montour Falls 23 Aug; two SW 24 Aug. **Canada Warbler:** 24 IJC.

Scarlet Tanager: 98 IJC. **N. Cardinal:** 342 IJC. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** 159 IJC; 34 KHMO. **Indigo Bunting:** 152 IJC; 20 KHMO, high total. **Rufous-sided Towhee:** 159 IJC. **Chipping Sparrow:** 487 IJC. **Field Sparrow:** 136 IJC. **Vesper Sparrow:** six IJC; four MBBS; 25 OBBS. **Savannah Sparrow:** 181 IJC. **Grasshopper Sparrow:** 11 IJC; three MBBS; three Aurora 30 Jul; **Henslow's Sparrow:** four IJC; eight Lansing July (JW, KR). **Song Sparrow:** 1106 IJC; 285 KHMO. **Swamp Sparrow:** 122 IJC. **White-throated Sparrow:** two IJC; one Connecticut Hill 12 Jul; one Shindaigin Hollow 25 Jul. **Dark-eyed Junco:** 130 IJC. **Bobolink:** 258 IJC. **Red-winged Blackbird:** 1484 IJC. **Eastern Meadowlark:** 115 IJC. **Com. Grackle:** 517 IJC. **Brown-headed Cowbird:** 454 IJC. **N. Oriole:** 246 IJC; 35 KHMO. **Orchard Oriole:** one IJC; one West Danby 6 Jun (CH). **Purple Finch:** 21 IJC; six KHMO. **House Finch:** 390 IJC. **Am. Goldfinch:** 638 IJC.

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