

REGION 3 - FINGER LAKES

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After one of the coolest springs on record, warm and dry weather prevailed over the summer of 1997 in the Finger Lakes Region. From June through August, temperatures were 3 degrees above average for June and August. Precipitation was normal for June, but below normal for July and August.

The 3rd consecutive Ithaca June Count was held on 17 June. The Ithaca June Count is held within the confines of the Ithaca Christmas Bird Count circle. This year, over 50 participants observed 124 species of birds and counted over 23,000 individuals. While the species total was slightly below previous years, the total number of individuals counted was higher than the past 2 years. Highlights included a late lingering Great Egret near Varna, an Acadian Flycatcher in the Hammond Hill section, and a Worm-eating Warbler near Brooktondale. The numbers of Acadian Flycatcher, Worm-eating Warbler, and Prairie Warbler reports are increasing as these more southern breeders seem to be increasing, particularly in the southern sections of the Region.

This year an intensive survey was made of Cerulean Warbler in the Region. Ken Rosenberg, chief biologist at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, reports, "Intensive surveys for Cerulean Warblers were carried out by participants in the Cerulean Warbler Atlas Project, funded by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and administered by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. These efforts turned up an impressive 291 singing male Cerulean Warblers in the MNWR Complex and 45+ males along Salmon Creek in Lansing. Details of these populations will be published soon in *The Kingbird*."

Highlights included: Red-necked Grebe, Cattle Egret, **Sandhill Crane**, American Avocet, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Sedge Wren, White-eyed Vireo, and Red Crossbill.

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Abbreviations: CL - Cayuga Lake, CV - Chemung Valley, IJC - Ithaca June

Count, 14 June, a 24 hour count in the Ithaca Christmas Bird Count Circle, It - Ithaca, MNWR - Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, MNWR Complex (The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation have begun an ambitious project in purchasing land around the north end of Cayuga Lake. MNWR complex refers to these lands which are located around Savannah, north of Seneca Falls, and extending west to Howland's Island), MP - Myers Point, Lansing, GE - Geneva, QCM - Queen Catherine Marsh, Montour Falls.

LOONS-DUCKS

Common Loon: 1 MNWR 4 Jun; 6 GE 8 Jun.
Pied-billed Grebe: numerous MNWR.
Horned Grebe: 6 GE through 20 Jun; 2 GE entire period.
Red-necked Grebe: 1 GE entire period, possibly injured?
Double-crested Cormorant: 3 MP 18 Jun; 20 QCM 12 Aug; 3 EL 19 Aug; up to 150 MNWR by late Aug.
Am. Bittern: fairly numerous MNWR complex thru.
Least Bittern: 2 MNWR (Tsache Pool) 6 Jun.
Great Blue Heron: 50 IJC; scattered CV Aug.
Great Egret: 1 IJC; arr MNWR last week in July; 2 Kashong Pt SL 1 Aug; 1 EL 8 Aug.
Cattle Egret: 1 It 12 Aug (SD, m.ob).
Green Heron: 8 IJC, lowest count in 3 years; numerous MNWR complex; scattered EL Aug.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: fairly numerous MNWR; 1 QCM 23 Aug.
Mute Swan: north end CL entire period.
Snow Goose: 1 MNWR entire period.
Canada Goose: 285 IJC; 212 CV 2 Aug.
Wood Duck: common through Region; 70 IJC; 35 QCM 20 Jul..
Green-winged Teal: arr MNWR mid Aug; 8 QCM 14 Aug.
Am. Black Duck: 1 QCM 21 Jul.
Mallard: 406 IJC.
Blue-winged Teal: bred MNWR.
N. Shoveler: 2 QCM 21 Aug.
Am. Wigeon: 2 GE thru; arr MNWR mid-Aug.
Canvasback: 2 GE thru.
Redhead: 2 GE 8 Jun.
Greater Scaup: 1 MNWR 6 Jun..
Lesser Scaup: 2 GE thru.
Bufflehead: 1 MNWR 6 Jun.; 3 GE thru.
Hooded Merganser: 11 IJC; 7 QCM 5 Jul.
Com. Merganser: 8 IJC; 25 Kashong Pt SL 27 Aug.

HAWKS-ALCIDS

Turkey Vulture: 19 IJC; scattered through Region
Osprey: 3 MNWR 9 Jun; 1 Kashong Pt SL 9 Jun; 1 QCM 11 Jul; 4 reports CV late Aug.
Bald Eagle: 3 nests MNWR complex.
N. Harrier: scattered nesting throughout Region.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: 2 IJC; 1 QCM 27 Aug, only reports.
Cooper's Hawk: 6 IJC; scattered WG area; 1 Gleason Mdws El 23 Aug.
N. Goshawk: 1 Hi Tor WMA, nest; 2 nests Connecticut Hill; uncommon local breeder.
Red-shouldered Hawk: local breeding in large forest tracts particularly in S part of Finger Lakes.
Broad-winged Hawk: local breeding in large forest tracts particularly in S part of Finger Lakes.
Am. Kestrel: 6 IJC; 3 Kelly Hill CV 21 Aug.
Merlin: 1 QCM 26 Aug.
Peregrine Falcon: 1 MNWR 17 Aug.
Ruffed Grouse: 6 IJC; 1 EL 6 Jun; numbers seem low.
Wild Turkey: 10 IJC; scattered through Region.
Virginia Rail: common MNWR complex; 3 QCM 27 Jul.
Sora: local MNWR complex; 1 QCM 27 Jul.
Com. Moorhen: fairly common MNWR complex; 6 QCM 3 Aug.
Am. Coot: 1 MNWR late Aug.
SANDHILL CRANE: 1 between Canandaigua and Clifton Springs 4-27 Jun (mob), often seen eating at a bird feeder; 1 Turk Rd GE 5 Jun (G.Acquilano).
Black-bellied Plover: 1 QCM 31 Aug, only report.
Semipalmated Plover: 1 QCM 27 Jul; 20 MNWR 20 Aug.
AM. AVOCET: 1 Stewart Park It 24 Jul (SK,SD,mob).

Greater Yellowlegs: 1 MP 3 Jun; 2 EL 2 Aug; 1 QCM 3 Aug; 9 MNWR 14 Aug.
Lesser Yellowlegs: 1 QCM 17 Jul; 83 MNWR 20 Aug.
Solitary Sandpiper: 1 QCM 13 Jul; 9 MNWR 30 Jul.
Spotted Sandpiper: 7 IJC; 5 MNWR 23 Jul; 8 EL 2 Aug.
Upland Sandpiper: 1 Caroline 3 Jun; 8 Seneca Falls June; 2 Freeville 8 Jun.
Ruddy Turnstone: 1 GE 1 Jun; 1 Canandaigua 1 Jun; 1 MP 3-4 Jun; 1 MNWR 31 Aug.
Sanderling: 2 Stewart Park 21 Jun; 3 MNWR 20 Aug.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 1 QCM 2 Aug; 1 EL 10 Aug; 32 MNWR 20 Aug.
Least Sandpiper: 50 MNWR complex 6 Jul; 1 QCM 17 Jul; 1 EL 3 Aug.
White-rumped Sandpiper: 2 MNWR 20 Aug.
Baird's Sandpiper: 1 SP 23 Jul; 2 QCM 3 Aug.
Pectoral Sandpiper: 4 MNWR 30 Jul; 1 QCM 2 Aug; 60 MNWR 20 Aug.
Stilt Sandpiper: 1 MNWR complex 15 Jul; 4 MNWR 20 Aug.
Short-billed Dowitcher: 1 MNWR complex 15 Jul; 15 MNWR 28 Aug; 30 QCM 26 Aug.
Long-billed Dowitcher: 3 MNWR 28 Aug.
Com. Snipe: 1 QCM 27 Jul; 7 MNWR 20 Aug;
Am. Woodcock: scattered through Region.
Wilson's Phalarope: 1 MNWR 20 Aug.
Bonaparte's Gull: 3 GE 8 Jun; 1 IT 12 Aug.
Ring-billed Gull: numbers peaking mid-Aug.
Herring Gull: numbers peaking mid-Aug.
Great Black-backed Gull: scattered reports of immature birds.
Caspian Tern: first fall returns 4 Jul; max 40 IT 15 Aug.
Com. Tern: 1 EL 26 Aug.
Forster's Tern: 1 SP 15 Jul.
Black Tern: 8 MNWR thru; scattered migrants end of period.

DOVES-WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: 1 WG 3 Jun; 1 West Danby 10 Jun; noct migrants IT mid Aug.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 1 West Danby 3 Jun; 1 IJC; only reports.
E. Screech-Owl: scattered through Region.
Great Horned Owl: scattered through Region.
Barred Owl: scattered through Region.
N. Saw-whet Owl: 1 Danby 20 Jun, calling.
Com. Nighthawk: max 100 EL 26 Aug.
Chimney Swift: 105 IJC.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 38 IJC.

Red-headed Woodpecker: scattered reports Cayuga Lake Basin thru.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 40 IJC.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS

Acadian Flycatcher: 4 nesting pairs Salmon Creek area; 1 Hammond Hill 14 Jun; 1 Arnot Forest 11 Jul.
Alder Flycatcher: 79 IJC.
Willow Flycatcher: 89 IJC.
Least Flycatcher: 49 IJC.
E. Phoebe: 143 IJC.
Great Crested Flycatcher: 99 IJC.
E. Kingbird: 53 IJC.
Purple Martin: numerous MNWR late Aug.
Tree Swallow: large concentrations MNWR late Aug.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: numerous through Region.
Bank Swallow: numerous through Region.
Cliff Swallow: scattered colonies through Region.
Barn Swallow: large concentrations MNWR late Aug.
Fish Crow: nested Stewart Park Ithaca.
Com. Raven: numerous reports southern Finger Lakes Region.
Black-capped Chickadee: 475 IJC.
Tufted Titmouse: 101 IJC.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: 11 IJC, low; scattered reports southern Finger Lakes Region.
White-breasted Nuthatch: 52 IJC.
Brown Creeper: 30 IJC.
Carolina Wren: 4 IJC; 1 GE 8 Jun, only reports.
House Wren: 335 IJC.
Winter Wren: 3 IJC; 1 WG 12 Jun, only reports.
Sedge Wren: 3 Kings Ferry 1 Jun (CH!), thru June, probable nesting.
Marsh Wren: numerous MNWR complex; 5 QCM 20 Jul.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 23 IJC; scattered MNWR complex.
E. Bluebird: 36 IJC.
Veery: 361 IJC, high; numerous WG.
Hermit Thrush: 292 IJC, high; numerous WG.
Wood Thrush: 292 IJC; numerous WG.
Am. Robin: 1441 IJC, high; numerous CV.
Gray Catbird: 590 IJC; numerous CV.
N. Mockingbird: 11 IJC, only report.
Brown Thrasher: 18 IJC.
Am. Pipit: arr MNWR 30 Sep.
Cedar Waxwing: 302 IJC; scattered CV.
European Starling: 1980 IJC; 5000 EL 17 Aug.

VIREOS-WARBLERS

White-eyed Vireo: 1 Sapsucker Woods 19 Jun (KM, mob).
Solitary Vireo: 35 IJC; 1 Tanglewood CV 1 Aug.
Yellow-throated Vireo: numerous MNWR complex; 12 IJC; 1 QCM 2 Jul.
Warbling Vireo: 69 IJC; numerous MNWR complex.
Philadelphia Vireo: 1 Sapsucker Woods 26 Aug.
Red-eyed Vireo: 508 IJC.
Blue-winged Warbler: 64 IJC; 1 Kiner Hill CV 6 Jun.
Golden-winged Warbler: 1 IJC; 1 Sapsucker Woods 29 Jul.
Yellow Warbler: 776 IJC.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: 105 IJC.
Magnolia Warbler: 18 IJC.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: 25 IJC; 2 Arnot Forest 11 Jul.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: 40 IJC; 2 Sullivanville Dam 2 Aug.
Black-throated Green Warbler: 35 IJC.
Blackburnian Warbler: 26 IJC.
Pine Warbler: 5 IJC; 1 WG State Park.
Prairie Warbler: 2 IJC; 10 Caroline 12 Jun; 3 Gleason Meadows CV 30 Jul.
Cerulean Warbler: 241 MNWR complex.
Black-and-white Warbler: 22 IJC.
Am. Redstart: 162 IJC.
Prothonotary Warbler: nested Armitage Rd MNWR.
Worm-eating Warbler: 1 IJC; several West Danby June.
Ovenbird: 387 IJC.
N. Waterthrush: 17 IJC.
Louisiana Waterthrush: 13 IJC; 3 locations WG State Park.
Mourning Warbler: 27 IJC, record high count.

Com. Yellowthroat: 606 IJC.
Hooded Warbler: 15 IJC.
Canada Warbler: 32 IJC, record high count.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: 65 IJC; scattered CV.
N. Cardinal: 305 IJC.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 73 IJC.
Indigo Bunting: 146 IJC.
E. Towhee: 110 IJC; numerous CV.
Chipping Sparrow: 363 IJC.
Field Sparrow: 68 IJC; 10 Gleason Mdws. CV 23 Aug.
Vesper Sparrow: 3 IJC.
Savannah Sparrow: 251 IJC; 14 Sullivanville 2 Aug.
Grasshopper Sparrow: 17 IJC.
Henslow's Sparrow: 2 Kings Ferry 8 Jun.
Song Sparrow: 1070 IJC.
Swamp Sparrow: 91 IJC; numerous MNWR complex.
White-throated Sparrow: 2 IJC; 3 Tanglewood CV 17 Aug.
Dark-eyed Junco: 200 IJC; scattered CV.
Bobolink: 280 IJC; throughout Aug QCM.
Red-winged Blackbird: 1460 IJC.
E. Meadowlark: 102 IJC; 5 Holding Pt. CV 30 Jul.
Com. Grackle: 561 IJC; 2500 Gleason Mdws 29 Aug.
Brown-headed Cowbird: 434 IJC.
Orchard Oriole: 1 Hanley Preserve near GE 15 Jun.
Baltimore Oriole: 194 IJC.
Purple Finch: 20 IJC.
House Finch: 199 IJC, record low count.
Red Crossbill: 1 Chemung 31 Jul.
Pine Siskin: 1 Dryden 9 Aug.
Am. Goldfinch: 604 IJC.
House Sparrow: 560 IJC.

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