

REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

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Hot, dry weather characterized the Finger Lakes Region for the months of June, July, and August. August concluded as the eleventh month in a row with above average temperatures. June saw temperatures 2° to 4° above normal, precipitation 2 to 3 inches less than normal, and less than 50 percent of the normal monthly precipitation reported for most of the Region. July

was seasonably hot and dry, with continued high temperatures and low precipitation nearer to normal values for the Region, though precipitation was not sufficient to make up for the June deficit. Drought conditions, measured by the Palmer Drought Severity Index, increased in severity from mild drought conditions in June to moderate drought conditions in July. Temperatures 3° to 4° above normal characterized August, with precipitation nearer to normal for the month. Although severe drought conditions persisted in Steuben County, other parts of the Region reported mild to moderate drought conditions. Hurricane Bob brought widespread showers to the Region on 19 and 20 Aug (weather information provided by the Northeast Regional Climate Center, Cornell University).

The unseasonably dry weather caused lowered water levels, producing exposed areas along stream banks that provided additional foraging areas for migrating shorebirds. A good variety of shorebirds was reported from Montezuma NWR, especially after a cold front from Canada moved through the Region the third week of July, perhaps bringing the first migrating shorebirds with it. Hurricane Bob probably was responsible for the appearance of at least two **Laughing Gull**.

Both Bald Eagle and Osprey produced young at Montezuma NWR. Noteworthy observations of breeding species from the Region include two Common Merganser broods, and nesting records of Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Wild Turkey, Bank Swallow, Worm-eating Warbler, and Pine Warbler.

Though no definite evidence of breeding activity was noted, Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen in June and July. For the second summer in a row, **American White Pelican** was reported. A single **Loggerhead Shrike** also is noteworthy.

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Abbreviations: CL - Cayuga Lake; CWMA - Connecticut Hill Wildlife Management Area; FLNF - Finger Lakes National Forest; MNWR - Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; QCM - Queen Catharine Marsh (Watkins Glen); SL - Seneca Lake; StP - Stewart Park (Ithaca); SSW - Sapsucker Woods.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: reported SL throughout summer. Pied-billed Grebe: ad with five y Big Flats Marsh 2 Jun. Horned Grebe: one-three n end SL all summer (Fred Bertram). **Am. White Pelican**: two MNWR 7 Jun. Great Egret: two MNWR 14 Jul, one Elmira 29 Aug, three-four MNWR through end of Aug. Least Bittern: one near Dryden 2 Jun. Great Blue Heron: max 220 MNWR 16 Aug. Com. Merganser: ad

with seven y Chemung R near Big Flats early Jun; one with five recently hatched y Seneca L 31 Jul.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Osprey: *intro*. Bald Eagle: *intro*. Sharp-shinned Hawk: three FL Watkins Glen SP 16 Aug. Red-shouldered Hawk: ad with two y w SCHU 15 Jun; also nesting near Painted Post. Wild Turkey: one with five y near Montour Falls 11 Jul. Virginia Rail: several reports from different locations, including MNWR, QCM (max six 4 Jul), and small marsh off Melvin Hill Road Phelps. Sora: one QCM 2 Jul, one MNWR 5 Jul. Com. Moorhen: MNWR and "several" nesting Big Flats Marsh. Semipalmated Plover: max 44 MNWR 31 Aug. Killdeer: max 30 MNWR 31 Aug. Greater Yellowlegs: max seven MNWR 31 Aug. Lesser Yellowlegs: max 15 MNWR 31 Aug. Solitary Sandpiper: max seven MNWR 18 Jul. Spotted Sandpiper: max 25 MNWR 18 Jul. Upland Sandpiper: several reports including ad with chicks near Ithaca, one juv near Aurora 18 Jul. Sanderling: one Myer's Pt CL 31 Jul. Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 39 MNWR 31 Aug. W. Sandpiper: one MNWR 15 Aug. Least Sandpiper: max 50 MNWR 25 Aug. Baird's Sandpiper: two MNWR 25 Aug. Pectoral Sandpiper: max 165 MNWR 31 Aug. Long-billed Dowitcher: max two MNWR 31 Aug. Short-billed Dowitcher: max nine MNWR 31 Aug. Com. Snipe: one MNWR 31 Aug. Wilson's Phalarope: max three MNWR 31 Aug. **Laughing Gull:** ad StP 26 Aug, juv StP 27 and 31 Aug (NB, mob, NYSARC). Bonaparte's Gull: one MNWR 21 Jul, two Myers Pt CL 9 Aug, three MNWR 31 Aug. Black Tern: one MNWR 21 Jul, only report.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: E. Screech-Owl: two nests in Geneva, one with three young and another with two young. Com. Nighthawk: several summer reports, first migratory flocks noted on 12 Aug, max 100 Elmira 22 Aug. Red-headed Woodpecker: at least one Sutton Road Geneva 17 Jul. Downy Woodpecker: female using bluebird box for roosting after enlarging entrance hole for access on 30 Jul (BH).

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: Olive-sided Flycatcher: one singing FLNF 6 Jun and two birds together 9 Jun; one CWMA 10 Jun; one Cornell Univ. Campus 29 Jul, early migrant or unmated wanderer?; one SSW 27 Aug. Acadian Flycatcher: one Michigan Hollow near Ithaca 14 Aug. Purple Martin: 300-400 MNWR 16 Aug, with Rough-winged, Bank, Barn, and Tree Swallows, the combined total 2000± birds (NB, GB). Bank Swallow: several nest sites along Chemung R between Corning and Elmira. Com. Raven: one CWMA 7 Jun, one near Ithaca 19 Jul, and present Elmira mid Aug. Carolina Wren: nesting Tyre. Marsh Wren: max 24 MNWR 18 Jul. Brown Thrasher: only reported from Elmira area. **Loggerhead Shrike:** one Riland Road just off County Road 5 between Route 5 and 20 and T Hall ONTA (CS, KS, SS).

VIREOS-WARBLED: Blue-winged Warbler: one near Lansing 26 Aug. Pine Warbler: feeding recently fledged y near Ithaca 14 Jun. Prairie Warbler: singing male near Enfield 18 Jun, one near Watkins Glen 11 Jul; one with migrating warblers Lansing 26 Aug. Worm-eating Warbler: FY 2 Jul (CVAS). Hooded Warbler: four-six singing males FLNF in Jun. Yellow-breasted Chat: singing male near Watkins Glen 26 Jun.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Grasshopper Sparrow: FLNF Jun and Jul. Henslow's Sparrow: two-three singing males FLNF Jun and Jul; singing male near Lansing 20 Jun. White-throated Sparrow: singing male CWMA 19 Jul. Purple Finch: two CWMA 7 Jun.

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