

REGION 3 - FINGER LAKES

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It was a very dry summer in Region 3, with precipitation levels in Ithaca at less than half of historical averages in June and July before returning to normal levels in August.

Even so, the low rainfall did not seem to have a negative effect on habitat for wetland birds, which appeared in impressive numbers and diversity throughout the summer, especially at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge (MNWR). Most notable among dabbling ducks was a Eurasian Wigeon first found by Gary Kohlenberg and Dominic Sherony on 19 August at Knox-Marsellus Marsh at MNWR. Knox-Marsellus and the adjacent Puddler's Marsh also hosted the season's highlights among wading birds—a **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** seen by many birders over more than two weeks at the end of July and the beginning of August and a **Little Blue Heron** found by Mike and Joann Tetlow on 28 July. The latter bird was the second **Little Blue Heron** sighting of the season, following one at the Woodville boat launch in Yates County, as reported by Dave Tetlow on 21 July.

Knox-Marsellus and Puddler's Marsh were also center stage for MNWR's annual shorebird spectacle. Two Eurasian rarities topped the list. First, Wade and Melissa Rowley found and photographed a molting male **Ruff** at Puddler's Marsh on 24 June. Several observers found this bird again the following day. Then, remarkably, two different individual **Curlew Sandpipers** stopped by this area later in the summer. Tom Johnson and Chris Wood found the first, a still-reddish adult, at Knox-Marsellus on 24 July. This bird stayed for at least two more days. On 22 August, Douglas Robinson found a fresh juvenile Curlew Sandpiper at Puddler's Marsh. Brad Carlson found this bird again two days later.

It was also a fine summer for shorebird rarities in Tompkins County, toward the south end of Cayuga Lake. Tim Lenz found an American Avocet on one of the lighthouse jetties visible from Stewart Park and Allan H. Treman State Marine Park (AHTSMP) on 13 July. Tom Johnson found a lone "Western" Willet at Myers Park in Lansing on 13 July. Viewing from AHTSMP on 5 August, Dave Nutter found seven Willets together on one of the lighthouse jetties. This was an all-time high count for the species in Region 3. Finally, in late August, Jacob Johnson found a Whimbrel in a field in Dryden. This bird stayed for more than a week, gorging on grasshoppers and obliging many observers.

Region 3 also had its share of rare summer songbirds, especially in Tompkins County. Jay McGowan, Livia Santana, Shawn Billerman, and Brad Walker found and photographed a White-eyed Vireo at the Park Nature Preserve in Dryden on 12 July. Many observers managed to refind this bird over the following three days. Chris Wood, David Bell, and Brad Walker found a less-

cooperative Kentucky Warbler in Sapsucker Woods on 28 August. Regrettably, this bird did not reappear for other birders.

Chris Wood, Jessie Barry, Tom Johnson, and Ben Clock found and photographed two male Dickcissels at the Seneca Meadows Wetland Preserve on 1 July. Jay McGowan and Livia Santana saw a male and female Dickcissel building a nest and copulating twice at this site on 4 July. Sightings of the species continued until at least 14 July.

Pine Siskins remained in the Region into the first few days of June, when Bill Baker and Ken Rosenberg logged sightings in the Ithaca area. The biggest winter-finch surprise of the season came much later, as Jay McGowan saw at least nine Red Crossbills in spruce trees in suburban northeast Ithaca on 24 August.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

MNWR – Montezuma NWR; Myers – Myers Park, Lansing (Tompkins); StP – Stewart Park, Ithaca.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: 1 StP 22 Jul (JM).

Eurasian Wigeon: 1 MNWR 19-20 Aug (JGK, DS, KM, JM, MS).

Greater Scaup: 2 Cayuga Lake 7 Aug (BM); 1 Cayuga Lake 27 Aug (BM, JC, JTar), only reports.

Little Blue Heron: 1 Woodville boat launch (YATE) 21 Jul (DT); 1 28 Jul MNWR (MT&JT, JTar).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: 1 MNWR 25 Jul–9 Aug (MM, JM, JBr)

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: 2 FL Town of Ulysses (TOMP) 2-9 Jun (DNu), third consecutive year confirmed breeding at this site, breeding unusual outside of Montezuma Wetlands Complex.

Am. Golden-Plover: max 6 MNWR 19 Aug (JGK).

Am. Avocet: 1 StP 13 Jul (TL).

WILLET (R3): 1 Myers 19 Jul (TJ); 7 StP 5 Aug (DNu, JM, KM), new high count for Region.

Upland Sandpiper: 4 FL Seneca Falls 21 Jul (DNi).

WHIMBREL (R3): 2 MNWR 9 Jun (AB); 1 Dryden (TOMP) 23-29 Aug (JJ, mob).

CURLEW SANDPIPER: 1 MNWR 24-26 Jul (TJ, CW, JM); 1 MNWR 22 Aug (WDR); 1 MNWR 24 Aug (BC).
RUFF: 1 MNWR 24-25 Jun (W&MR, DW, JA, JT, mob!).

Ruddy Turnstone: 2 MNWR 6 Jun (MT&JT); 1 arr MNWR 20 Aug (DR).

Sanderling: max 5 MNWR 26 Jul (CC); 1 Myers 14 Aug (JM).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 700 MNWR 29 Jul (TL), high.

Least Sandpiper: max 800 MNWR 29 Jul (TL).

White-rumped Sandpiper: max 24 MNWR 23 Aug (JM).

Baird's Sandpiper: max 7 MNWR 25 Aug (TL).

Pectoral Sandpiper: max 300 MNWR 25 Aug (JM), high.

Stilt Sandpiper: max 25 MNWR 25 Aug (JM).

Wilson's Phalarope: 1 MNWR 4 Jun (JC); regular sightings of 1 or 2 MNWR 24 Jul thru.

Red-necked Phalarope: max 6 MNWR 17 Aug (TL).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: arr 1 MNWR 18 Aug (DNu).

Caspian Tern: max 150 MNWR 14 Jul (JBr), high.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Red-headed Woodpecker: 1 King Road (SENE) 3 Jun (CW); 1 Ithaca 25 Jun (RZ); 1 Farley's Point (CAYU) thru 26 Aug (D&DS).

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

White-eyed Vireo: 1 Park Nature Preserve (TOMP) 12-15 Jul (JM, LS, BW, SB, mob).

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

"Lawrence's" Warbler: 1 Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve (TOMP) 2 Jun (CW)

Prothonotary Warbler: 2 Armitage Road (SENE) 3 Jun (TL, JM, LS, BW, CW, TS, MH, GS), only report. More sightings just across the border in Region 2.

KENTUCKY WARBLER (R3): 1 SW 28 Aug (DB, CW, BW).

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Clay-colored Sparrow: 1 King Road (SENE) 24 Jun (LAvL, KM) and 2 Jul (BM, LS, SD).

Dickcissel: 1 Seneca Meadows 1-14 Jul (CW, JB, TJ, BC, mob!), confirmed breeding.

Bobolink: max 2500 MNWR 25 Aug (TL), high.

Pine Siskin: 2 Caroline (TOMP) 1 Jun (BB); 1 Ithaca 3 Jun (KR).

Red Crossbill: 9 Ithaca 24 Aug (JM), only report.