

REGION 3—FINGER LAKES

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The average temperature in Ithaca in June was normal at 64° F, almost 2° below normal in July at 67°, and back to normal in August at 67°. Precipitation in Ithaca was double the norm in June with 7.89" compared to the normal of 3.89". The 6.15" of rainfall in July was 2.32" above normal. August was relatively dry with only 2.11" of precipitation, 1.54" below normal.

There were a number of unexpected waterfowl reports in the Region this summer. A late migrating immature Tundra Swan spent an evening on the Chemung River near Elmira, and two Lesser Scaup lingered at Myers Point in early June. Early fall migrants included Ross's Goose, Northern Shoveler, and Greater Scaup. Other unusual waterfowl records for the season included a Eurasian Wigeon at Montezuma NWR and Buffleheads, Common Goldeneyes, and Red-breasted Merganser on Cayuga Lake and another Red-breasted Merganser on Seneca Lake. A family of Trumpeter Swans was reported at Montezuma NWR in June and July.

A late Horned Grebe and four Common Loons were observed on Cayuga Lake in early June. Double-crested Cormorants nested in Ithaca. A **Brown Pelican**, observed for two days on Cayuga Lake, was the first record for the Cayuga Lake Basin. There was one report of a fledgling Sandhill Crane at Montezuma NWR.

The Willet at Montezuma NWR was the most unusual sandpiper species of the season. Several species arrived early on their fall migration: American Golden-Plover, Greater Yellowlegs, Ruddy Turnstone, Dunlin, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, and Red-necked Phalarope.

Mildly rare gull species were Bonaparte's, Laughing, and Lesser Black-backed. Black Terns at Montezuma NWR and Common Terns at Frontenac Harbor were present in good numbers in early June. An **Arctic Tern** discovered and photographed by Kevin McGowan was observed occasionally around Cayuga Lake for a period of about one week. Late in the season, Caspian Terns were at Montezuma NWR in high numbers, and Ian Davies found a Forster's Tern at Seneca Lake.

Several breeding species are scarce in the Region, but seem to be hanging on at certain sites. Red-headed Woodpeckers and Purple Martins nested again at Montezuma NWR. Worm-eating Warbler was holding territory again at Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve. Louisiana Waterthrush fledged young at Cayuta Gulf. There was a pair of Mourning Warblers at Hammond Hill State Forest. Cerulean Warbler was on territory at Montezuma NWR. Orchard Oriole fledged young at Salt Point. While nesting was not observed, Prothonotary Warbler was reported from four locations at Montezuma.

Rare passerines included Clay-colored Sparrow on the Cornell University campus and another in the Town of Ulysses. A **Dickcissel** appeared on the last day of the season at Stewart Park in Ithaca.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

CU – Cornell University; LPBP – Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve, TOMP; MNWR – Montezuma NWR; MyPt – Myers Pt, TOMP; QCM – Queen Catharine Marsh, SCHU; RGF – Reynolds Game Farm, TOMP; StP – Stewart P, TOMP; SW – Sapsucker Woods, TOMP.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: max 5 Canandaigua L, Mud Lock CAYU 20 Jul-23 Aug.

ROSS'S GOOSE (R3): arr Mud Lock CAYU 23 Aug (DNu, RT, AMi!), early.

Trumpeter Swan: max 12 MNWR 16 Jun (IBA), high.

TUNDRA SWAN (R3): last Chemung R, T Elmira 10-11 Jun (BO), late, only report.

Wood Duck: max 341 MNWR 17 Jul, high.

EURASIAN WIGEON (R3): MNWR 1 Jun-2 Jun (KB!), only report.

N. Shoveler: arr 3 MNWR 3 Aug (MC), early max 50 MNWR 28 Aug (JO), high.

N. Pintail: max 12 MNWR 21 Aug (IBA), high.

GREATER SCAUP (R3): arr Holiday Harbor ONTA 8-9 Aug (CJ!), ph, early.

LESSER SCAUP (R3): max 2 MyPt 2 Jun (mob), ph, high.

BUFFLEHEAD (R3): last Jetty Woods TOMP thru 10 Jun (mob!); arr & max 2 StP 29 Aug (KSn), high.

COM. GOLDENEYE (R3): max 4 Seneca L SP 1 Jul (EF!), high.

Hooded Merganser: max 16 MNWR 30 Jun (IBA), high.

Red-breasted Merganser: Seneca L SENE 5 Jun (TL); Cayuga L CAYU 3 Jul (JMc), only reports.

Ruddy Duck: max 6 MNWR 1 Jun.

Ring-necked Pheasant: Whitlock Preserve SENE 6 Jun; T Hector 17 Jun (TL); T Groton 14 Jul (CWo); only reports.

Com. Loon: max 4 Cayuga L TOMP 3 Jun & Cayuga L SENE 6 Jun.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 166 MNWR 24 Jul, high.

HORNED GREBE (R3): MyPt 3 Jun-5 Jun (JMc, LSA), ph.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 470 Jetty Woods TOMP 25 Aug, high.

BROWN PELICAN: Cayuga L 5 Jun-9 Jun (mob), ph.

Am. Bittern: max 3 MNWR 27 Jun-22 Aug.

Least Bittern: max 4 QCM 8 Aug.

BLACK VULTURE (R3): max & arr 2 T Enfield 29 Aug (PR!), early.

Turkey Vulture: max 121 Auburn 24 Jun (DNe), high.

HAWKS - LARIDS

Osprey: max 21 MNWR 7 Aug (IBA), high.

N. Goshawk: max T Erin 13 Jun (WE), only report.

Bald Eagle: max 48 MNWR 16 Jun (EHe), high.

Com. Gallinule: max 112 MNWR 28 Aug, high.

Sandhill Crane: max 19 MNWR 2 Aug (JMc, DNu, LSA), high.

Black-bellied Plover: last & max 15 MNWR 6 Jun; arr MNWR 1 Aug.

Am. Golden-Plover: arr MNWR 4 Aug (MT, DSh), early.

Semipalmated Plover: last 5 MNWR 12 Jun; arr 5 MNWR 16 Jul; max 90 MNWR 7 Aug (JC), high.

Spotted Sandpiper: max 20 MNWR 18 Jul, high.

Solitary Sandpiper: last MNWR 19 Jun (BD), late; arr 2 Shindagin Hollow SF TOMP 11 Jul, RGF (KM); max 25 MNWR 15 Jul, high.

Greater Yellowlegs: last 3 Taughannock Falls SP 6 Jun (WO), late; arr MNWR 19 Jun (BD), early; max 77 MNWR 14 Aug.

WILLET (R3): arr MNWR 21 Aug (mob), ph, early, only report.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr 24 MNWR 1 Jul; max 740 MNWR 18 Jul (KR), high.

Upland Sandpiper: max 8 T Seneca Falls 2 Aug.

Ruddy Turnstone: max 2 StP 1 Jun-3 Jun & MyPt 5 Jun (TL, JMc, LSA); last MNWR 6 Jun; arr MNWR 15 Jul (NK), early.

Stilt Sandpiper: arr 2 MNWR 13 Jul; max 16 MNWR 1 Aug.

Sanderling: arr MNWR 17 Jul; max 2 MyPt 20 Aug-31 Aug.

Dunlin: last 14 MNWR 2 Jun; max & arr 30 MNWR 15 Jul (NK), early.

Baird's Sandpiper: arr 2 MNWR 28 Aug; max 4 MNWR 29 Aug-31 Aug.

Least Sandpiper: last 10 MNWR 2 Jun; arr MyPt 10 Jul max 800 MNWR 18 Jul (KR), high.

White-rumped Sandpiper: last 2 MNWR 2 Jun; arr MNWR 13 Jul; max 13 MNWR 15 Aug.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: arr MNWR 11 Aug (mob), early max 6 MNWR 31 Aug.

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 6 MNWR 13 Jul; max 40 MNWR 9 Aug.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: last 5 Myers Pt 8 Jun; arr MNWR 13 Jul; max 450 MNWR 2 Jun, high.

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr 6 MNWR 13 Jul; max 26 MNWR 21 Aug-27 Aug.

Long-billed Dowitcher: arr 2 MNWR 1 Aug.

Wilson's Snipe: max 12 MNWR 15 Aug.

Wilson's Phalarope: last & max 2 MNWR 2 Jun; arr MNWR 26 Jul.

Red-necked Phalarope: arr MNWR 28 Jul (DNu), early; max 2 MNWR 9 Aug-27 Aug.

Bonaparte's Gull: arr 2 MNWR 21 Jul; max 5 MNWR 2 Aug (JGK), high.

LAUGHING GULL (R3): Hog Hole TOMP 13 Aug-28 Aug (mob!).

Herring Gull: max 80 RGF 24 Aug (JMc, LSa), high.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL (R3): Elmira Dam CHEM 2 Jun-3 Jun (BO!, MPo), only report.

Great Black-backed Gull: arr Sunset P TOMP 19 Jun; max 16 StP 11 Aug (JMc, LSa), high.

Caspian Tern: max 129 MNWR 1 Aug (JO), high.

Black Tern: max 34 MNWR 2 Jun.

Com. Tern: max 32 Frontenac Harbor Marina CAYU 2 Jun (JMc), high.

ARCTIC TERN: CayL 2-10 Jun (KM!, MI, TSc, JMc), ph.

FORSTER'S TERN (R3): Seneca L SCHU 12 Aug (ID), ph.

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Com. Nighthawk: arr T Covert 19 Aug; max 2 Riley Tree Farm CAYU 23 Aug.

Belted Kingfisher: max 8 LPBP 22 Aug (ACF, BFr), high.

Red-headed Woodpecker: max 6 MNWR 27 Aug (EG, GL, CM), high.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 8 Cayuga Nature Center TOMP 26 Aug (TL), Catharine Valley Trail SCHU 30 Aug (ID), high.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 14 Hammond Hill SF TOMP 5 Jul (CWo), high.

Downy Woodpecker: max 20 SW 1 Jul (JGa), high.

Hairy Woodpecker: max 10 SW 1 Jul (JGa), high.

Merlin: max 2 QCM 2-19 Aug; 3 locations TOMP.

Peregrine Falcon: arr MNWR 31 Jul; max 2 MNWR 21 Aug-23 Aug.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr Durland Preserve TOMP, SW 18 Aug.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr T Ithaca 8 Aug.

Acadian Flycatcher: max 4 Cayuta Gulf SCHU 22 Jun.

Blue Jay: max 30 SW 1 Jul (JGa), high.

Fish Crow: max 21 RGF 22 Aug.

Horned Lark: max 8 T Veteran 19 Jul.

Barn Swallow: max 6580 QCM 5 Aug (ID), high.

Tufted Titmouse: max 20 SW 1 Jul (JGa), high.

White-breasted Nuthatch: max 11 MNWR 28 Aug (JO), high.

Brown Creeper: max 6 Mossy Bank P STEU 17 Jun (EHe), high.

Marsh Wren: max 50 MNWR 11 Jul (CW), high.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 15 Hammond Hill SF TOMP 11 Jul (JMc, LSa), high.

Swainson's Thrush: arr T Ithaca 22 Aug; max 5 T Ithaca 23 Aug (JMc), high.

Am. Robin: max 330 QCM 28 Jul, high.

Gray Catbird: max 44 QCM 5 Aug (ID), high.

Brown Thrasher: max 5 Newtown Battlefield SP 13 Jun (BO) & T Avoca 20 Jun (LMu) & LPBP 24 Jun (MSche), high.

N. Mockingbird: max 10 SW 1 Jul (JGa), high.

European Starling: max 12,180 QCM 29 Jul (ID), high.

Cedar Waxwing: max 100 Park Preserve TOMP 20 Aug (DNu), high.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Ovenbird: max 25 Finger Lakes Trail STEU 22 Jun.

Worm-eating Warbler: Danby SF 15 Jun, only report.

"Brewster's" Warbler (hybrid): Summerhill SF CAYU 6 Jun, only report.

"Lawrence's" Warbler (hybrid): max 2 QCM 7 Aug (ID, DLe, TSc), high, only report.

Black-and-white Warbler: max 4 LPBP 6 Jun (EC) & Newtown Battlefield SP 12 Jun (MSchi), high.

Prothonotary Warbler: MNWR at 4 locations 3 Jul-13 Aug.

Tennessee Warbler: arr LPBP 29 Jul; max 3 CU 25 Aug, high.

Nashville Warbler: max 3 Summerhill SF 22 Jul (DBr), high.

Cape May Warbler: arr 2 Dryden L 22 Aug (JMc, LSa), early; max 3 T Lansing 24 Aug (GMa), high.

Cerulean Warbler: max 2 MNWR 6 Jun-14 Jun, Mud Lock CAYU 14 Jun & MNWR at 2 locations 14 Jun & MNWR 16 Jun.

Bay-breasted Warbler: max & arr 2 CU 23 Aug, Sullivanville Dam CHEM 23 Aug (mob).

Blackpoll Warbler: last T Wayne, Ithaca Tompkins Airport TOMP 1 Jun; arr 2 MNWR 30 Aug; max 2 MNWR 30 Aug & T Catlin 31 Aug (MPo).

Pine Warbler: max 7 Coon Hollow SF SCHU 12 Jul (ID), high.

Wilson's Warbler: last T Lansing 3 Jun; arr MNWR 29 Aug; max 2 Keuka L Outlet Trail YATE 30 Aug.

Grasshopper Sparrow: max 2 T Benton 18 Jun.

Chipping Sparrow: max 50 T Newfield 24 Aug (MF), high.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW (R3): CU 4 Jun-11 Jul; T Ulysses 6 Jun-3 Jul (mob).

Vesper Sparrow: max 2 Mt Pleasant TOMP 5 Jul.

Song Sparrow: max 80 Finger Lakes NF SCHU 2 Aug (TL, GMa), high.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: max 16 Bare Hill Unique Area YATE 21 Jun (CJ), high.

N. Cardinal: max 18 MNWR 28 Aug-30 Aug.

DICKCISSEL (R3): arr StP 31 Aug (JMc), early, only report.

Bobolink: max 8500 MNWR 29 Aug (JMc), high.

Com. Grackle: max 29,374 QCM 19 Aug (ID), high.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 1165 QCM 29 Jul (ID), high.

Orchard Oriole: max 4 Salt Pt TOMP 3 Jul.

Baltimore Oriole: max 19 QCM 5 Aug (ID), high.

House Finch: max 20 SW 1 Jul (JGa) & T Dryden 1 Jul (BMa), high.

Purple Finch: max 8 C Ithaca 19 Jun.

Pine Siskin: max 2 T Ithaca 10 Jun & T Ithaca 6 Jul (TSc).

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