

REGION 3—FINGER LAKES

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Following a mild winter, March 2017 was cooler than normal with brief periods of wintry weather. The average low temperature was 21° F, 2° below normal. The average high temperature was 38°, 4° below normal. April was warmer than normal. The average low was 41°, 7° above normal, and the average high was 62°, 6° above normal. The average low in May was 46°, 2° above normal. The high temperature was 64°, 3° below normal. Precipitation in March was 2.58", 0.04" less than normal. April precipitation was 3.82", 0.53" more than normal. Precipitation in May was 3.80", 0.61" more than normal.

The mild winter allowed waterfowl to move into the wetlands north of the Finger Lakes by late February. The many wintering Northern Pintails and Green-winged Teal masked the arrival of migrants to the Region. Observers reported high numbers of Canada Geese, Trumpeter Swan, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Green-winged Teal, Greater and Lesser Scaup, and Red-breasted Merganser. Greater White-fronted Geese were present through the winter, and individuals continued through mid-March. Individual Ross's Geese continued in the Region through late March.

Other waterbirds of note were two American White Pelicans in the Savannah Mucklands and a single bird flying over Sapsucker Woods. Snowy Egrets appeared at Seneca Lake State Park and at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. A Cattle Egret visited the Executive Links Golf Course in Seneca County for two days in April.

Black Vultures, which began an unprecedented movement through the Region in February, continued to be seen passing through the Region through mid-May. The Region's third Mississippi Kite flew by Sapsucker Woods in late May. Dale Campbell reported a Barn Owl flying low over a field while it was still daylight in the Town of Chemung in the same vicinity where he had seen one last year.

The most exciting bird of the season was the Region's second record of Black-necked Stilt, which spent ten days in the Savannah Mucklands. Several shorebird species more commonly seen in the fall migration made spring appearances this year: American Golden-Plover, Whimbrel, Stilt Sandpiper, Sanderling, Long-billed Dowitcher, Wilson's Phalarope, and Red-necked Phalarope.

Jeremy Collison and Jay McGowan caught a quick look and some quick photos of a passing Parasitic Jaeger at Myers Point on Cayuga Lake. Adriaan Dokter found a Sabine's Gull, rare in fall and rarer in spring, at the south end of Cayuga Lake. Little Gulls were reported from the Savannah Mucklands, Cayuga Lake, and Seneca Lake. Ken Rosenberg photographed a rare Franklin's Gull at

Myers Point on the last day of the season. A flock of 100 Black Terns at Montezuma NWR and a flock of 42 Common Terns on Cayuga Lake bode well for these species.

Cuckoos of both species were present in good numbers. Gates DuPont and Alex Wiebe monitored nocturnal migration over Cornell University on 17 May and counted 18 Black-billed Cuckoos. Common Nighthawks were scarce, with high counts of only two. Two was also the maximum count of Eastern Whip-poor-will, but that was a high count for this very scarce species.

Cool weather in early May slowed down the passage of neotropical migrants. A Prothonotary Warbler in Chemung County was the first report there in more than 50 years. There were five reports of Golden-winged Warbler, more than in most recent years. The Clay-colored Sparrow returned to the Cornell University campus for the second year. Kerri Ellison photographed an adult male Yellow-headed Blackbird at her feeder in Canandaigua in mid-March. Jay McGowan photographed two Evening Grosbeaks in the Town of Dryden in early May.

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ABBREVIATIONS

CanL – Canandaigua L; CayL – Cayuga L; CU – Cornell University; DSF – Danby State Forest, TOMP; HO – Hawthorn Orchard, TOMP; HP – Harris P, CAYU; LF – Lott Farm, SENE; LPBP – Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve, TOMP; MNWR – Montezuma NWR; MR – Monkey Run, TOMP; MyPt – Myers Pt, TOMP; NE Ith – Northeast Ithaca; QCM – Queen Catharine Marsh, SCHU; SLSP – Seneca L SP; SM – Savannah Mucklands, SENE; SPNP – Salt Pt Nature Preserve, TOMP; SSP – Sampson SP; StP – Stewart P, TOMP; SW – Sapsucker Woods, TOMP; TCar – T Caroline, TOMP; TDan – T Danby, TOMP; TDry – T Dryden, TOMP; TEnf – T Enfield, TOMP; TLed – T Ledyard, CAYU; TVar – T Varick, SENE.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE

(R3): MNWR 1 Mar (BN, ph, SHan); Owasco L Inlet CAYU 4 Mar (CW); 2 MNWR 8 Mar (JSn, ph); Risser Rd Swamp ONTA 17 Mar (MBro, MG, ph, BroM, ph); Canandaigua Country Club ONTA 19 Mar (BriM!).

Snow Goose: max 50,000 Holiday Harbor, CanL ONTA 21 Mar; last 3 MNWR 28 May.

ROSS'S GOOSE (R3): MNWR 8 Mar (DK, ph); T Covert SENE 19 Mar (LK, KR!); CayL, Sheldrake SENE 23 Mar (MH, ph); CU 24 Mar (JCo!); TDry 25 Mar (mob, ph).

Brant: arr 9 StP 5 May; max 52 MNWR 22 May; last 40 MNWR 29 May.

Cackling Goose: last SW 30 Mar.

Canada Goose: max 140,000 SLSP 19 Mar (KGr), high.

Mute Swan: last Clifton Springs Hospital Pd ONTA 14 May (DSp), late.

Trumpeter Swan: max 15 SM 30 Apr (SBI, BW), high.

Tundra Swan: last SM 23 Apr.

Gadwall: max 600 MNWR 2 Apr (JMc, LSA), high.

Eurasian Wigeon: max 5 MNWR 3 Mar; last MNWR 22 May.

Am. Wigeon: max 1100 MNWR 26 Mar (JMc, LSA); 1100 SM 22 Apr (DNi), high.

Blue-winged Teal: max 60 MNWR 10 Apr (ET), high; 50 SM 23 Apr.

Green-winged Teal: max 2000 SM 20 Apr-6 May (mob), high.

N. Pintail x Green-winged Teal: QCM 3 Mar (LK, TLe, JMc, KMcGo).

Canvasback: max 7250 HP 28 Mar.

Greater Scaup: max 3600 HP 28 Mar (TC), high.

Lesser Scaup: max 2000 HP 26 Mar (JMc, LSA), high.

Surf Scoter: Weaver Creek Gravel Pit STEU 25 Mar (AWe); Keuka L, T Pulteney STEU 7 Mar (RK); only reports.

White-winged Scoter: arr SSP 13 Mar; max 5 East Shore P TOMP 5 May; last 5 CayL, TVar 13 May; 5 CayL Sheldrake SENE 13 May; 2 SLSP 13 May.

Black Scoter: Chemung R, T Elmira CHEM 11 Mar (BO); 5 MyPt 25 Mar (BM); only reports.

Long-tailed Duck: max 10 Minier's Pd CHEM 26 Mar; last MNWR 24 May (LHa), late.

Com. Goldeneye: max 68 Long Pt SP 5 Mar; last SLSP 30 May (TLe), late.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 320 CayL, Aurora High Banks CAYU 29 Apr (JMc, LSa), high.

Red-throated Loon: max 5 CayL, MyPt 7 Apr; 5 TDan 15 Apr, migrating over; last Seneca L, Severne Pt YATE 20 May (AG, EG, GL), late.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 30 MNWR 22 Apr (PMc), high.

AM. WHITE PELICAN (R3): SM 17 Apr (AS); 2 SM 20-24 Apr (mob!, ph); SW 23 Apr (JE!), flying over.

Am. Bittern: max 4 MNWR 25 May (JCa), high.

Least Bittern: arr MNWR 13 May (mob), early; max 3 QCM 29 May (CW), high.

Great Egret: arr QCM 24 Mar; max 10 MNWR 25 May.

SNOWY EGRET (R3): SLSP 8 May (mob!, ph); MNWR 21-22 May (mob!, ph).

CATTLE EGRET (R3): Executive Links Golf Course SENE 21-22 Apr (mob!, ph).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr NE 1th 24 Apr; max 10 MNWR 29 May.

Black Vulture: max 4 SW 3 Apr; last CU 16 May (MGo!), late.

HAWKS – LARIDS

MISSISSIPPI KITE (R3): SW 30 May (JGe, CW,nob, ph), 3rd Reg record.

Broad-winged Hawk: arr 3 TCar 10 Apr; TDan 10 Apr; 2 Plantations Restaurant TOMP 10 Apr; SW 10 Apr; Robert H Treman SP 10 Apr; max 41 Boyer Creek Farm Hawk Watch TOMP11 Apr.

Rough-legged Hawk: max 2 MNWR 29 Mar; last T Genoa CAYU 23 Apr.

Golden Eagle: last T Hornellsville STEU 13 May.

Sandhill Crane: max 6 MNWR 30 Apr; 6 MNWR 11 May.

BLACK-NECKED STILT: SM 20-29 Apr (mob!, ph), 2nd Reg record.

AM. GOLDEN-PLOVER (R3): 1-2 SM 22 Apr-6 May (DA, EC, JMc, ph, LSa).

Greater Yellowlegs: max 120 MNWR 29 Apr (JMc, LSa), high.

Upland Sandpiper: arr 2 LF 19 Apr; max 5 LF 28 May.

WHIMBREL (R3): 4 CanL, City Pier ONTA 19 May (MBro!, ph, KG!, ph, MG, BroM, ph); MyPt 22 May (mob!, ph); 4 Seneca L, Lakefront P ONTA 31 May (JA, ph, LMo!).

Ruddy Turnstone: arr 2 SM 6 May (SBI, SDA!, JMc, MDM), early; max 23 MNWR 18 May (DSc), high.

STILT SANDPIPER (R3): MNWR 29 Apr-1 May (mob!, ph); SM 12 May (Joseph Brin!).

SANDERLING (R3): 2 CayL, MyPt 2-6 May (BM!, mob, ph); CanL, Kershaw P ONTA 3-5 May (MBro!, mob, ph).

Dunlin: arr 6 SM 20 Apr; max 300 MNWR 23 May.

White-rumped Sandpiper: arr 6 MNWR 10 May; max 7 MNWR 24 May; 7 MNWR 26 May.

Pectoral Sandpiper: max 30 SM 22 Apr; last 2 MNWR 13 May; SM 13 May.

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr CanL, City Pier ONTA 17 May; max 56 MNWR 25 May.

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER (R3): MNWR 29 Apr (DK!, ph, JMc, ph, LSa); 5 SM 29 Apr (KK, BM); MNWR 3 May (DN!).

Wilson's Snipe: arr 2 Caswell Rd Grasslands TOMP 4 Mar (KMcGo, TSc), early; max 32 Bluegrass Lane Natural Area TOMP 9 Apr (JMc), high.

WILSON'S PHALAROPE (R3): MNWR 23-27 May (DNu!, mob, ph).

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE (R3): CayL, MyPt 21 May (KB!, JCh, ADo, ph); MNWR 27 May (mob, ph).

PARASITIC JAEGER (R3): CayL, MyPt 3 May (JCo, JMc!, ph).

SABINE'S GULL: CayL, White Lighthouse Jetty TOMP 22 May (ADo!, TLe, ph).

Bonaparte' Gull: CayL, MyPt 26 Mar; max 250 CayL, TVar 14 Apr; last 2 SLSP 30 May; 5 Seneca L, Lakefront P SENE 30 May.

LITTLE GULL (R3): 1-2 SM 18 Apr-6 May (DDa!, JMc, ph, mob!); 2 Long Pt SP 22 Apr (SHe!, LK, ph, TLe!); SLSP 13 May (LK, AK, JMc, ph, KR!), late.

FRANKLIN'S GULL: CayL, MyPt 31 May (KR!, ph).

Ring-billed Gull: max 8000 SM 2 Apr (DWe, mob), high.

THAYER'S GULL: CayL, MyPt 17 Apr (JMc!, ph).

Iceland Gull: last CayL StP 20 Mar.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: max 17 CayL, MyPt 31 May (SBi, MC), high.

Glaucous Gull: last CayL, MyPt 17 Apr.

Herring Gull X Glaucous Gull: 2 CayL, StP 13 Mar (TLe); CayL, StP 20 Mar (TLe).

Caspian Tern: arr MNWR 1 Apr (MG), early; max 70 SM 22 Apr (BG, JGo, AM), high.

Black Tern: max 100 MNWR 12 May (GDa), high.

Com. Tern: max 42 CayL, East Shore P TOMP 5 May.

Forster's Tern: arr Keuka L, Champlin Beach P STEU 23 Apr; last CayL, Frontenac Harbor Marina CAYU 21 May.

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr CU 17 May; T Manchester ONTA 17 May; max 3 West Elmira Riverine Forest CHEM 26 May.

Black-billed Cuckoo: max 18 CU 17 May (GDu, AWi), nocturnal migrants, high.

BARN OWL (R3): T Chemung CHEM 18 May (DaC!).

Snowy Owl: max 2 LF 1-27 Mar; last T Fayette SENE 1 Apr (NBu).

Barred Owl: max 3 TDry 9 Apr (CH); 3 Roy H Park Preserve TOMP 28 Apr (SDa), high.

Short-eared Owl: max 5 T Phelps ONTA 20 Mar; last T Lodi SENE 10 Apr.

N. Saw-whet Owl: TCar 17 Mar (SKe); Hammond Hill State Forest TOMP 11 Apr (JMc); TCar 4 May (SKe); only reports.

Com. Nighthawk: max 2 CU 23 May; 2 MNWR 23 May, low.

E. Whip-poor-will: 2 NE Ith 28 Apr (mob), high.

Red-headed Woodpecker: MNWR 25 May (DDo), only report.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 10 TDan 13 May (LSe), high.

Pileated Woodpecker: max 5 Shindagin Hollow State Forest TOMP 9 Apr (LA, MDM), high.

Merlin: max 4 Boyer Creek Farm Hawk Watch TOMP 11 Apr (JGe, SKe, BS, CW), high.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: last TCar 27 May (CW), late.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr SW 17 May; MR 17 May.

Acadian Flycatcher: arr DSF 18 May.

N. Shrike: max 2 T Fayette SENE 2 Mar (DK), high; last TEnf 4 Apr.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr City of Corning 14 May; Jetty Woods TOMP 14 May; max 3 HO 16 May; last City of Ithaca TOMP 26 May.

Fish Crow: max 30 Riverfront P CHEM 9 Apr (EG, GL), high.

Purple Martin: max 150 MNWR 13 May (LK, AK, JMc, KR), high.

Tree Swallow: max 6000 MNWR 20 Apr (TLe, JMc, LSa), high; 4000 TVar 22 Apr.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: max 200 CayL Basin 7 May (MH), high; 50 MNWR 2 May; 50 MNWR 13 May.

Cliff Swallow: arr CayL, MyPt 1 Apr (MH!, DMo), early; max 15 CayL, MyPt 6 May.

Barn Swallow: max 800 CayL, MyPt 5 May (JMc, LSa); 800 Kipp Island Fields CAYU 6 May (SBi, JMc), high; 600 MNWR 6 May; 500 CayL Basin 7 May; 450 CayL, MyPt 7 May.

White-breasted Nuthatch: max 21 TEnf 20 May (PR), high.

Marsh Wren: max 25 MNWR 21 May (JMc, KMcGo); 25 MNWR 26 May (DK), high.

Carolina Wren: max 7 QCM 9 May (MT), high.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr CU 17 May; TDan 17 May; Fillmore Glen SP 17 May; SW 17 May; max 6 NE Ith 28 May, nocturnal migrants.

Hermit Thrush: arr MR 3 Mar (CW), early; Caswell Rd Grasslands TOMP 4 Mar; T Farmington ONTA 19 Mar; T Hector SCHU 19 Mar; max 7 CU 22 Apr.

Am. Robin: max 971 TDan 3 Apr (ID), high.

Gray Catbird: TDry 12 Mar (ABC); max 28 TDan 17 May.

Brown Thrasher: max 7 Finger Lakes National Forest SENE 23 Apr (LK, AK, ST), high.

Am. Pipit: arr CU 3 Mar (GDu); max 51 Park Station P CHEM 25 Mar; last TLED 23 May.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: max and last 20 SM 7 May.

Snow Bunting: max 100 T Farmington ONTA 18 Mar; last MyPt 22 Apr (LK, JMc, ST), late.

Worm-eating Warbler: arr DSF 21 May, late.

Louisiana Waterthrush: arr MR 8 Apr; max 5 CU 22 Apr.

N. Waterthrush: arr Jetty Woods TOMP 22 Apr (ADo!), early; max 8 Dorothy McIlroy Preserve CAYU 20 May.

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER (R3): arr TDan 27 Apr (ID!), early; HO 2 May (mob!, ph); MNWR 7 May (LK, KR!); TDry 13 May (JF!); last MNWR 20 May (DK, ph), late.

Blue-winged Warbler: arr Finger Lakes National Forest SENE 29 Apr; max 11 Fischer Old Growth Forest TOMP 6 May.

“Brewster’s” Warbler: SSP 31 May.

Golden-winged x Blue-winged Warbler: TDry 24 May.

Prothonotary Warbler: arr Andrew Sperr Memorial P CHEM 6 May (MPa!), early; max 2 MNWR 18 May thru.

Tennessee Warbler: max 10 TEnf 20 May; 10 MNWR 22 May; last QCM 29 May.

Orange-crowned Warbler: arr LPBP 29 Apr; max 2 HO; last HO 13 May.

Mourning Warbler: arr SW 4 May (BW), early; max 3 TCar 18 May.

Hooded Warbler: arr HO 6 May; max 6 TDan 23 May; 6 Ford Hill TOMP 23 May.

Am. Redstart: max 34 DSF 18 May.

Cape May Warbler: max 5 TEnf 20 May; last QCM 29 May (CW), late.

Cerulean Warbler: arr MNWR 1 May (DK), early; max 4 CayL WMA 11 SENE May; 4 MNWR 13 May.

N. Parula: max 5 HO 11 May; last T Ovid SENE 28 May; Trumansburg Golf Club TOMP 28 May.

Bay-breasted Warbler: max 7 TEnf 20 May; last Sweedler-Lick Brook Preserve TOMP 26 May.

Blackpoll Warbler: max 10 T Middlesex YATE 23 May; last SLSP 30 May.

Palm Warbler: max 14 StP 3 May; last T Newfield 20 May.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr MNWR 30 May; max 50 LPBP 8 May; 40 SW 11 May; 40 SPNP 12 May.

Prairie Warbler: arr 3 LPBP 29 Apr; 2 Roy H Park Preserve TOMP 29 Apr; max 8 LPBP 13 May.

Wilson’s Warbler: last MR 31 May.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS
E. Towhee: T Ithaca TOMP thru 15 Apr (FKa); max 14 Bare Hill Unique Area YATE 26 Apr.

Am. Tree Sparrow: max 62 QCM 5 Mar (JCo, TLe), high; last MNWR 7 May (DCar, ph), late.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW (R3): CU 12-24 May (mob!, ph).

Field Sparrow: T Ithaca TOMP 2 Mar (FKa), present since 12 Feb; arr T Seneca SENE 27 Mar; max 13 SSP 11 Apr.

Savannah Sparrow: SPNP 19 Mar (mob); arr MNWR 1 Apr; max 10 TLED 11 May; 10 LF 21 May.

Grasshopper Sparrow: arr TLED 29 Apr; max 7 Painted Post 14 May.

Fox Sparrow: max 12 DSF 9 Apr; last TDry 25 Apr.

Song Sparrow: max 100 QCM 3 Apr (TLe), high.

Lincoln’s Sparrow: max 2 CU 11 May; last MR 24 May.

White-throated Sparrow: max 100 SW 28 Apr (BW), high.

White-crowned Sparrow: max 11 T Summerhill CAYU 10 May; 11 TDry 16 May; last 2 CU 17 May; NE Ith 17 May; TDan 17 May; TDry 17 May.

BLUE GROSBEAK: Village of Horseheads 14 May (GSI, LSI!).

E. Meadowlark: arr TEnf 8 Mar; max 10 LF 13 May.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: City of Canandaigua 15 Mar (KE, ph).

Rusty Blackbird: max 45 MNWR 31 Mar; last SW 17 May (MC!), late.

Orchard Oriole: arr Hog Hole TOMP 25 Apr (DNu!), early; max 6 SPNP 18 May.

House Finch: max 32 TEnf 14 Mar (MF), high.

Purple Finch: max 26 TDan 16 Apr (ID), high.

Pine Siskin: max 5 TCar 2 May; last DSF 18 May.

EVENING GROSBEAK (R3): 2 TDry 4 May (JMc, ph).