

REGION 3—FINGER LAKES

Bill Ostrander

80 Westmont Ave., Elmira, NY 14905
browncreeper9@gmail.com

In Ithaca, June temperatures were slightly cooler than normal, with average lows at 53° F, 2° below normal, and average highs at 75°, 1° below normal. July lows averaged 59°, 2° above normal and highs averaged 78°, 2° below normal. August was cooler than normal. Lows averaged 55°, 1° below normal and highs averaged 76°, 3° below normal. June was relatively dry with a total rainfall of 1.68", 2.19" below normal. July was very wet bringing 6.76" of rain, 3.21" above normal. August was dry with only 0.88" of rainfall, 2.51" below normal.

Dabbling ducks gathered at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) in large numbers in August, with summer high counts recorded for eight species. All the high counts were recorded at the Knox-Marcellus Marsh and Puddler's Marsh area, except for the high American Black Duck count that was recorded along the Wildlife Drive around the Main Pool. Observers also recorded high (though still small) numbers for five diving duck species. Unusual species for the Region were Eurasian Wigeon, White-winged Scoter, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, and Red-breasted Merganser. Trumpeter Swan was confirmed breeding in Seneca and Cayuga Counties. Blue-winged Teal, Gadwall, American Wigeon, and Redhead were all confirmed breeding at Montezuma NWR. American Black Ducks were confirmed breeding in Watkins Glen.

Other water birds occurred in high numbers, as well. Double-crested Cormorants were numerous at Stewart Park in Ithaca, and at least two nests there produced young. Least Bitterns, Great Egrets, Black-crowned Night-Herons, Common Gallinules, and American Coots were numerous at Montezuma NWR. Rare waterbirds included Horned Grebe on Keuka Lake, American White Pelican, Snowy Egret, and Glossy Ibis at Montezuma NWR. Sam Heinrich spotted a flock of eight Glossy Ibis flying over the Cornell University campus. Donna Carter photographed a Cattle Egret in the Town of Montezuma.

The compost piles on Stevenson Road in Tompkins County attracted 163 Turkey Vultures in July and two Black Vultures in June. Ian Davies and Sarah Dzielski reported another Black Vulture at the Elmira-Corning Regional Airport, where the species has been reported on occasion in past years. The only reports of Northern Goshawk were at both ends of the season and from the Town of Dryden, Tompkins County.

The only high shorebird counts were Jay McGowan's and Livia Santana's ten Long-billed Dowitchers at Montezuma NWR and Brad Walker's eight American Woodcock in Danby State Forest. Although shorebird numbers were not high, the Region attracted a good variety and a few rarities. Tim Lenz found an American Avocet at the south end of Seneca Lake. Michael Gullo photographed two Whimbrels at the north end of Canandaigua Lake, and many observers saw two others at Montezuma NWR. A Ruff was in the Montezuma NWR area for two weeks in July. A Red Knot was in Montezuma NWR for a few days in August. A Willet was at Stewart Park for one day in June.

Jay McGowan recorded the high count of 16 Lesser Black-backed Gulls at Myers Point on Cayuga Lake at the beginning of the season. Tim Lenz estimated the high count of 2500 Ring-billed Gulls at Seneca Lake State Park in August. Five Bonaparte's Gulls at Lakefront Park were a summer high count. A Franklin's Gull at Myers Point on Cayuga Lake was the rarest gull of the summer. Dan Watkins estimated 100 Black Terns at Montezuma NWR in late July, a high count for that species. The only Common and Forster's Terns report was a small mixed flock at Myers Point in mid-June.

The nesting pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers near Montezuma NWR returned and was confirmed to be breeding again this summer. The only confirmed nesting of Merlin in the Region was in Etna, Tompkins County. Many observers were able to observe an Acadian Flycatcher incubating on a nest in Danby State Forest.

High counts were recorded for Horned Larks at the Savannah Mucklands and for Bank Swallows, Barn Swallows, and Marsh Wrens at Montezuma NWR. Purple Martins were confirmed breeding in Ontario, Seneca, and Yates Counties.

Ken Rosenberg turned in a season high count of six Swainson's Thrushes in Northeast Ithaca on their last spring migration date of 4 June. Other observers

matched that number at Palmer Woods when the species returned to the Region on 31 August.

High counts among warblers were turned in for Nashville, Cape May, and Wilson's Warblers and for Northern Parula. The count of 28 Cape May Warblers by Ian Davies and Sarah Dzielski in the Town of Danby is remarkable for a species considered rare in the Region just a few years ago. This species, known only as a migrant in this Region, responds to Spruce Budworm outbreaks in eastern Canada with increased productivity and eastward range expansion. Prothonotary Warbler was confirmed nesting in a nestbox at Montezuma NWR. Adam West reported a Yellow-throated Warbler in Erwin Wildlife Management Area and Andy, Joel, and Matthew Eckerson reported one in the Town of Enfield.

Vesper Sparrows were confirmed breeding in Cayuga, Seneca, and Tompkins Counties. Dickcissels were found scattered throughout the Region with a high count of eight in the Town of Benton where Andrew Guthrie and Brian Morse observed a female repeatedly carrying nesting material to probable nesting site. Orchard Orioles were confirmed breeding in Seneca and Tompkins Counties. Estimates of 1000 Bobolinks at Montezuma NWR in late August was a summer high count for the Region.

There were some "winter" finch reports this summer. Flyover Red Crossbills were reported from four locations in Tompkins County and one location in Schuyler County. Pine Siskins were reported in Ontario, Schuyler, and Tompkins Counties.

CONTRIBUTORS

Martha Adams, Janet Akin, Dennis Anderson, Logan Anderson, Marcelo Araya Salas, Chris Barry, Jessie Barry, Sue Barth, Betty Beckham, Bob Bethune, Shawn Billerman, Anne Booth, Kathi Borgmann, Joseph Brin, M Brown, Gregory Budney, Ken Burdick, Lewis Burke, Donna Carter, Ethan Chaffee, Gary Chapin, Glen Chapman, Malinda Chapman, Michael Charnoky, Larry Chen, Don Clark, Tiffany Clay, Margaret Clukey, Jeremy Collison, Dave Czaplak, Alison Daly, Doug Daniels, Gregg Dashnau, Ian Davies, Martha Deed, John Deitsch, Michael DeWispelaere, Adriaan Dokter, Deborah Dohne, Dorothy Dunlap, Gates Dupont, Sarah Dzielski, William Earley, Kevin Ebert, Andy Eckerson, Joel Eckerson, Matthew Eckerson, Kim Ehn, Eduardo Inigo Elias, Jody Enck, William Evans, Joseph Fell, Wayne Fiedler, John Fitzpatrick, Mark Fitzsimmons, Patricia Folsom, N Fontaine, Elizabeth Frascatore, Carlos Funes, Guillermo Funes, Kyle Gage, Liron Gertsman, Joshua Glant, Fabricio Gorleri, Sheryl Gracewski, Jane Graves, Michael Gullo, Andrew Guthrie, Benjamin Hack, Rich Hanlon, Sarah Hansen, Becky Harrison, Will Harrod, Patti Haynes, Valerie Heemstra, Sam Heinrich, Max Hellicar, Silas Hernández, Louis Hicks, Jordan Hillsley, Doug Hitchcox, Bill Howe, Alec Humana, Carolyn Jacobs, Matthew Janson, Logan Kahle, Steve Kelling, Delaney Kempf, Kenneth Kemphues, Dave Kennedy, John Kent, Max Kirsch, Renee Kittleman, J Gary Kohlenberg, Augie Kramer, Logan Lalonde, Jack Leiman, Tim Lenz, Patricia Lindsay, Naomi Lloyd, Connor Loomis, Pat Lucas, Charlotte Maddela, Mark Magistro, Marcos Maldonado Coelho, Nancy Masterson, Lauri Mattle, Jay McGowan, Kevin McGowan,

Bob McGuire, Tracy McLellan, Phil McNeil, Sandy McNicol, Matthew D Medler, Jim Miles, Sam Miller, Ann Mitchell, Diane Morton, Linda Mot, Jon Nelson, David Nicosia, James Norwalk, Dave Nutter, James Osborn, Bill Ostrander, Nancy Overholtz, Ron Overholtz, Matthew Papua, Adam Perry, Scott Peterson, Irvin Pitts, Angus Pritchard, Bill Purcell, C Quinlan, Scott Reichert, Chris Rockwell, Paul Rodewald, Ken Rosenberg, Melissa Rowley, Wade Rowley, Thomas Ryan, Taksh Sangwan, Livia Santana, Andrew Schmalfuss Jr, Kathryn Schneider, Dominic Sherony, Antony Shrimpton, Lindsay Simmen, Ramit Singal, Dave Slager, Joshua Snodgrass, Marian Sole, Rick Stevens, Lucy Soulliere, Matthew Strimas-Mackey, Eveling Tavera Fernández, Michael Tetlow, Larry Therrien, Sarah Toner, Diane Traina, Alex Trifunovic, Gary Tyson, Jennifer Uehling, John van Dora, Lee Ann van Leer, Alison Wagner, Brad Walker, Dan Watkins, Drew Weber, Adam West, David Wheeler, Alex Wiebe, Joe Wing, Suzanne Winterberger, Chris Wood, Elisa Yang, Matthew Young.

ABBREVIATIONS

CanL – Canandaigua L, Canandaigua; CU – Cornell U; CygL – Cayuga L; KI – Kipp I, CAYU; DSF Canandaigua Danby State Forest, TOMP; LP – Lakefront P, SENE; MyPt – Myers Pt, TOMP; NEI – Northeast Ithaca; SLSP – Seneca L SP; SRCP – Stevenson Road Compost Piles, TOMP; StP – Stewart P, TOMP; TDan – T Danby, TOMP.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: max 9 SLSP 1-7 Jul (JMc, JNo, LSa), high.

Wood Duck: max 800 MNWR 19 Aug (JMc), high.

Gadwall: max 80 MNWR 5 Aug (AB), high.

EURASIAN WIGEON (R3): KI 30 June (GaC!); MNWR 8 Jul (KR!).

Am. Wigeon: max 50 MNWR 24 Aug (DDo, DWh), high.

Am. Black Duck: max 100 MNWR 27 Aug (AT), high.

Mallard: max 5000 MNWR 8 Aug (JMc, LSa), high.

Blue-winged Teal: max 80 MNWR 26-29 Aug (mob), high.

N. Pintail: arr 2 MNWR 8 Jul; max 100 MNWR 24-31 Aug (mob), high.

Green-winged Teal: max 500 MNWR 26 Aug (mob, ph), high.

Ring-necked Duck: max 12 MNWR 26 Aug (WEa), high.

Greater Scaup: max 10 SLSP 6 Jun (BeB), high; Harris P CAYU 3 Jun-11 Jul.

Lesser Scaup: max 9 LP 4 Jun (mob), high.

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER (R3): MyPt 8-16 Jul (mob).

BUFFLEHEAD (R3): max 7 MNWR 1 Jun (BeB!), high; 1-5 MNWR 1-7 Jun (mob, ph!); Hi Tor WMA YATE 14 Jun (BHo, ph); 3 SLSP 19 Jun; SLSP 7 Jul.

COM. GOLDENEYE (R3): CygL, T Ledyard 3 Jun (FG, JMc, LSa); 1-3 Seneca L, Geneva & SLSP 4 Jun-10 Jul (mob, ph); 1-3 Mud Lock, CygL 22 Jun-12 Jul (mob, ph); Cayuga & Seneca Canal SENE 18 Jul (PF, PH, AWa).

Hooded Merganser: max 20 KI 9 Jul (KM), high.

Com. Merganser: max 51 Chemung R, Elmira 1 Aug.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER (R3): 1-2 MyPt 1-6 Jun (JGr, JMc, ph); Chemung R, Elmira 2-29 Jun (BO); Mud Lock, CygL 1-9 Jul (JMc, ph, LSa).

Ruddy Duck: max 18 MNWR 3 Jun.

HORNED GREBE (R3): Keuka L thru 20 Aug (ID, SD, JNe).

Double-crested Cormorant: max 670 StP 22 Aug (TL), high.

AM. WHITE PELICAN (R3): MNWR 6-27 Jul (mob, ph).

Least Bittern: max 6 MNWR 8 Jul (MA, DCI), high.

Great Egret: max 200 MNWR 12-13 Aug (GDa, JMc, SPe), high.

SNOWY EGRET (R3): MNWR 12 Aug (mob, ph).

CATTLE EGRET (R3): T Montezuma CAYU 4 Jun (Dca, ph!).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 55 MNWR 12 Aug (JMc), high.

GLOSSY IBIS (R3): MNWR 22 Jul (AB); 8 CU 20 Aug (SaHe!).

BLACK VULTURE (R3): 1-2 SRCP 2-14 Jun (mob, ph); Elmira-Corning Regional Airport CHEM 28 Aug (ID, SD!).
Turkey Vulture: max 163 SRCP 15 Jul (CW), high.

HAWKS - LARIDS

N. Goshawk: T Dryden 3 Jun (JGK); T Dryden TOMP 14 Aug (JFi); only reports.
Com. Gallinule: max 128 MNWR 6 Aug (DDa), high.
Am. Coot: max 314 MNWR 27 Aug (JO), high.
Sandhill Crane: max 12 MNWR 25 Aug.
AM. AVOCET (R3): Seneca L, Watkins Glen 10 Aug (TL, ph).
Solitary Sandpiper: arr MNWR 16 Jun.
Greater Yellowlegs: last MNWR 17 Jun (mob), late; arr 2 MNWR 29 Jun.
WILLET (R3): StP 16 Jun (mob, ph).
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr MNWR 7 Jun (DSH, MT), early.
Upland Sandpiper: max 4 Lott Farm SENE 1 Jul.
WHIMBREL (R3): 2 CanL 2 Jun (MG, ph); 2 MNWR 10 Jun (mob, ph).
Ruddy Turnstone: max 42 LP 1 Jun (KG), high; 29 MNWR 2 Jun; 36 CanL 3 Jun; last CanL 11 Jun; arr 2 MNWR 20 Aug.
RED KNOT (R3): MNWR 24-29 Aug (mob, ph!).
RUFF (R3): KI & MNWR 8-24 Jul (DNu, mob, ph).
Stilt Sandpiper: arr MNWR 9 Jul (mob), early; max 45 MNWR 19 Aug.
Sanderling: last 5 CanL 3 Jun; arr MyPt 26 Jul.
Dunlin: last MNWR 5 Jun; arr MNWR 28 Aug.
Baird's Sandpiper: are KI 23 Aug.
Least Sandpiper: last MNWR 13 Jun; arr 10 MNWR 3 Jul.
White-rumped Sandpiper: arr MyPt 29 Jun (JMc), early.
Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 6 MNWR 19 Jul.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: last 5 MNWR 14 Jun; arr MNWR 29 Jun (ADa), early.
Short-billed Dowitcher: last Aurora Bay Boathouse 3 Jun (JMc, LSa), late; arr 2 MNWR 8 Jul.
Long-billed Dowitcher: arr MNWR 19 Jul (TL, BM, MDM!), early; max 10 MNWR 29 Aug (JMc!, LSa), high.
Wilson's Snipe: last MNWR 1 Jun; arr MNWR 6 Jul.

Am. Woodcock: max 8 DSF 21 Jun (BW), high.
Wilson's Phalarope: arr MNWR 8 Aug.
Red-necked Phalarope: arr SLSP 4 Aug.
Bonaparte's Gull: max 5 LP 4 Jun (KBo, ADo, KR), high; last SLSP 9 Jun (TL), late; arr CanL 17 Jul.
FRANKLIN'S GULL: MyPt 1 Jun (mob, ph).
Ring-billed Gull: max 2500 SLSP 18 Aug (TL), high.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: max 16 MyPt 1 Jun (JMc), high.
Black Tern: max 100 MNWR 26 Jul (DWa), high.
Com. Tern: arr & max 4 MyPt 16 Jun.
Forster's Tern: 2 MyPt 16 Jun (mob), only report.

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Black-billed Cuckoo: max 7 Boyer Creek Farm NFC Station TOMP 9&12 Jun, nocturnal flight calls.
E. Screech-Owl: max 4 T Starkey YATE 2 Jun (JH); 4 W Bluff YATE 20 Jul (MJ), high.
Com. Nighthawk: arr MNWR 13 Aug; max 43 MNWR 29 Aug.
Red-headed Woodpecker: max 4 MNWR 20 Aug (JBr, RK), high.
Peregrine Falcon: arr MNWR 23 Jul.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: last Connecticut Hill WMA TOMP 2 Jun; arr Finger Lakes National Forest 12 Aug.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last TDan 5 Jun; arr MNWR 3 Aug.
Acadian Flycatcher: max 3 DSF 14 Jun.
E. Kingbird: max 34 Finger Lakes National Forest SENE 25 Aug.
Philadelphia Vireo: arr Salt Pt Nature Preserve TOMP 31 Aug.
Red-eyed Vireo: max 50 DSF 14 Jun.
Am. Crow: max 500 SRCP 6 Aug.
Horned Lark: max 36 Savannah Mucklands SENE 13 Jul (TC), high.
Purple Martin: max 525 MNWR 8 Aug.
Tree Swallow: max 5600 MNWR 26 Aug.
Bank Swallow: max 11,200 MNWR 26 Aug (ID, LT), high.
Barn Swallow: max 11,200 MNWR 26 Aug (ID, LT), high.
Marsh Wren: max 100 MNWR 26 Jul (DWa), high.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: last T Caroline 4 Jun (SK), late.

Veery: max 24 Shindagin Hollow State Forest TOMP 24 Jun.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: last T Caroline 4 Jun (SK), late.

Swainson's Thrush: last and max 6 NEI 4 Jun (KR), late; arr 6 Palmer Woods TOMP 31 Aug (LC, JC, KEb), high.

European Starling: max 16,800 MNWR 26 Aug.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Worm-eating Warbler: DSF 1 Jun (MG); Texas Hollow State Forest SCHU 2 Jun (CQ); DSF 8 Jun (DNu); Elmira Country Club CHEM 26 Jun (JFi), only reports.

Tennessee Warbler: arr T Tyrone SCHU 10 Aug; max 3 Caswell Road Grasslands TOMP 28 Aug (CW), high.

Nashville Warbler: max 3 Spencer Crest Nature Center STEU 4 Aug (NM), high.

Cape May Warbler: arr 2 MyPt 13 Aug; max 28 TDan 28 Aug (ID, SD), high.

Cerulean Warbler: max 7 T Tyre SENE 24 Jun.

N. Parula: last T Jerusalem YATE 10 Jun; arr CU 23 Aug (GDu, AWi), early; max 5 CU 24 Aug (GDu, AWi), nocturnal migrants, high.

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr Sampson SP 24 Aug.

Blackpoll Warbler: last Sapsucker Woods TOMP 3 Jun; arr & max 3 MNWR 27 Aug; Sapsucker Woods TOMP 27 Aug.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 30 CU 24 Aug, nocturnal migrants.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER (R3): Erwin WMA STEU 14 Jun (AWe); T Enfield TOMP 6 Jul (AE, JEe, ME!).

Wilson's Warbler: last City of Ithaca 6 Jun (KK, DM!), late; arr & max 4 StP 12 Aug (MAS, ETF), high & early.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Vesper Sparrow: max 4 T Lansing TOMP 6 Jul.

Grasshopper Sparrow: max 3 T Lansing TOMP 11 Jul; 3 Birdseye Hollow State Forest STEU 2 Aug; last Birdseye Hollow State Forest TOMP 6 Aug.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 48 CU 24 Aug, nocturnal migrants.

Dickcissel: max 8 T Benton YATE 2 Jul (AG, Brian Morse), high.

Bobolink: max 1000 MNWR 27 Aug (mob), high.

Orchard Oriole: max 6 MyPt 25 Jun.

Red Crossbill: TDan 5 Jun (WEv!); Connecticut Hill WMA TOMP 25 Jun (BW); Jennings Pd TOMP 28 Jun (WEv!); T Catharine SCHU 2 Jul (CW!); NEI 22 Jul (KR!).

Pine Siskin: 2 Cayuta Creek SCHU 11 Jun (GB, EIE); T Seneca ONTA 18-21 Jun (JA); NEI 11 Jul (JMc).