

REGION 3—FINGER LAKES

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In Ithaca, June 2018 was cooler and drier than normal, with the average temperature 0.6°F below normal and precipitation 1.9" less than normal. July and August were both warmer and wetter than normal. The average temperature in July was 1.7° above normal, and the precipitation was 0.12" more than normal. The average temperature in August was 3.1° above normal, and the precipitation was 1.34" more than normal.

While the bountiful rainfall of August led to swollen rivers and streams making them inhospitable to waterfowl, conditions at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge were apparently excellent for Trumpeter Swans and dabbling ducks. Observers recorded high counts in August for Trumpeter Swan and all species of dabbling ducks, except Wood Duck and Mallard. They recorded a high count for Mallards in June. A variety of diving ducks lingered into June, with Canvasback on Cayuga Lake and at Montezuma NWR, Greater Scaup on Seneca Lake, Lesser Scaup on Seneca and Cayuga Lakes and at Montezuma NWR, Long-tailed Duck on Seneca Lake, Bufflehead on Seneca, Canandaigua, and Keuka Lakes, Common Goldeneye on Canandaigua and Seneca Lakes, and Red-breasted Merganser on Seneca Lake. Ring-necked Ducks were seen on Seneca Lake and at Montezuma NWR in July and again at Montezuma NWR in August. An individual Ruddy Duck was reported at Montezuma NWR in August.

Joining the August high counts at Montezuma NWR was Pied-billed Grebe, and joining the lingering June diving ducks was Horned Grebe, with as many as three on Seneca Lake in June. Unusual were two Red-necked Grebes on Seneca Lake in mid-August. Jay McGowan also recorded a high count of Double-crested Cormorants on Cayuga Lake in August.

A single Snowy Egret and a single Cattle Egret showed up at Montezuma NWR in June. Remarkably, two Yellow-crowned Night-Herons appeared in the

Region. Kayakers photographed one wading in Fall Creek in Freeville. The other was at Montezuma NWR for more than a month for many to see. David Nicosia's report of 25 Black-crowned Night-Herons at Montezuma NWR was a summer high count.

Two Black Vultures spent the last half of the season in the Ithaca-Dryden area. Charles Higham reported 100 Turkey Vultures at Taughannock Falls State Park for another high count. Chris Wood turned in a high count for Ospreys at Montezuma NWR. Also at Montezuma NWR, Michael Scheibel reported a high count of Common Gallinules, Logan Kahle turned in a high count of American Coots, and Mark Brown had a high count of Sandhill Cranes.

Late departing spring migrant shorebirds were Semipalmated Plover, Least Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, and Wilson's Phalarope. Early arriving fall migrant shorebirds were Black-bellied Plover, Semipalmated Plover, and Long-billed Dowitcher. Ann Mitchell reported a high count of Greater Yellowlegs. Jay McGowan and Livia Santana reported a high count of Lesser Yellowlegs. Jay McGowan reported a high count of Sanderlings at Long Point State Park and Tim Lenz reported the same number at Montezuma NWR. Jay and Kevin McGowan reported a high count of White-rumped Sandpiper. Unusual species of shorebirds included an American Avocet in early June and a Ruff in early August, both at Montezuma NWR. A Red Knot was at Myers Point on Cayuga Lake in late August.

No unusual gull or tern species were reported during the season, but observers reported high counts for Bonaparte's, Ring-billed, and Great Black-backed Gulls and for Black Tern. The high count of six Bonaparte's Gulls in Aurora Bay came on 10 June, a late spring migrant date for that species. Also late was a Lesser Black-backed Gull at Myers Point on 14 June. A sighting of the species at the same location on 9 July is a rare mid-summer record.

Observers in Steuben County found a location for Barn Owl in the Town of Thurston. Jeremy Collison had a high count of Belted Kingfishers in Queen Catharine Marsh. William Evans and Ethan Lai had high counts of Red-bellied Woodpecker in separate locations in Tompkins County. Logan Kahle had a high count of Yellow-bellied Flycatchers in Finger Lakes National Forest. Jay McGowan and Livia Santana had a high count of Acadian Flycatcher in Cayuta Gulf. An Olive-sided Flycatcher and a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher were reported on early fall arrival dates.

Other miscellaneous high counts were Wes Blauvelt's Blue Jays in Tompkins County, Chris Wood's Tufted Titmice in Queen Catharine Marsh, Tim Lenz's Red-breasted Nuthatches around the Bonavista State Park Golf Course, a large birding group's Brown Creepers at Shindagin Hollow State Forest, Paul Rodewald's American Robins in Enfield, and William Evans's Cedar Waxwings at Jennings Pond. William Evans also recorded the nocturnal flight call of an early migrating Swainson's Thrush in mid-July.

The only late spring migrant warbler was a Cape May Warbler on 4 June. Early fall migrating warblers were a Cape May Warbler on 18 August and a

Northern Parula on 23 August. Another Northern Parula was seen and photographed by a large birding group at Roy H. Park Preserve on the remarkable date of 13 July. It is difficult to say if this was a late spring migrant or an early fall migrant or a bird that had just given up on the idea of completing its migration. Adriaan Dokter and Ken Rosenberg had a high count of Black-and-white Warblers at Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve. Chris Wood had a high count of Prothonotary Warblers at Montezuma NWR. Jay McGowan and Livia Santana reported a high count of Cape May Warblers in Roy H. Park Preserve. Jeremy Collison had a high count of Bay-breasted Warblers at Palmer Woods. Meena Haribal had a high count of Pine Warblers in Danby. Robert Buckert and Nick Kachala reported a high count of Prairie Warblers at Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve. A large group of observers tallied a high count of Canada Warblers at Shindagin Hollow State Forest. Rare warblers included a Golden-winged Warbler and a “Lawrence’s” Warbler at Sapsucker Woods, a back-crossed Golden-winged X Blue-winged Warbler hybrid in Danby, a Connecticut Warbler in Sapsucker Woods, and a Yellow-breasted Chat at Monkey Run.

Rounding out the high counts were Ethan Lai’s Chipping Sparrows at Bluegrass Lane Natural Area, nocturnal fall migrant Rose-breasted Grosbeaks tallied by a group of counters at Cornell University, Meena Haribal’s Bobolinks at Montezuma NWR, and Jay McGowan’s Orchard Orioles at Myers Point. A Black-headed X Rose-breasted Grosbeak hybrid appeared and was photographed at a feeder belonging to Jennifer Fais and Noel Sylvester in the Town of Rathbone, Steuben County in early August. The bird continued there through the end of the season. “Winter” finches this summer were a Red Crossbill that Marky Mutchler sound-recorded in the Finger Lakes National Forest and flocks of Pine Siskins in the Town of Caroline and on Hammond Hill, both in Tompkins County.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BLNA – Bluegrass Lane Natural Area, TOMP; **CU** – Cornell University; **Cyg** – Cayuga; **LPBP** – Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve, TOMP; **MNWR** – Montezuma NWR; **MR** – Monkey Run, TOMP; **NE Ith** – Northeast Ithaca; **Sen** – Seneca; **SHSF** – Shindagin Hollow State Forest; **SW** – Sapsucker Woods, TOMP; **TDan** – T Danby; **TDry** – T Dryden, TOMP.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: 1-6 MNWR thru; max 26 Mud Lock CAYU 16 Jun (PMc), high; 5 Emerson P CAYU 24 Aug.

Trumpeter Swan: max 16 MNWR 21 Aug (SSH), high.

TUNDRA SWAN (R3): MNWR 2-4 Jun (mob!); MNWR 3-4 Jul (mob!, ph).

Blue-winged Teal: max 45 MNWR 25 Aug (TL, JMc), high.

N. Shoveler: max 60 MNWR 25 Aug (TL, JMc), high.

Gadwall: max 75 MNWR 29 Aug (LK), high.

Am. Wigeon: max 230 MNWR 29 Aug (LK), high.

Mallard: max 1200 MNWR 15 Jun (mob), high.

Am. Black Duck: max 50 MNWR 11 Aug (CF), high.

N. Pintail: max 30 MNWR 25 Aug (TL, JMc), high for date.

Green-winged Teal: max 180 MNWR MNWR 25 Aug (TL, JMc), high.

Canvasback: 1-2 Mud Lock CAYU 2-3 Jun; MNWR 16 Jun.

Ring-necked Duck: Lakefront P ONTA 18 Jul; MNWR 20 Jul; MNWR 3 Aug.

GREATER SCAUP (R3): 2 Sen L SP 11-15 Jun (TL, mob, ph).

Lesser Scaup: 2 Sen L SP 1-23 Jun; Cyg L 2-3 Jun; MNWR 23 Jun.

LONG-TAILED DUCK (R3): last Sen L SP 2 Jun (JMc, KMcGo).

BUFFLEHEAD (R3): Sen L SP 11 Jun (TL); Holiday Harbour ONTA 13 Jun (CJa); Sen L SP 23 Jun (KG); 4 Keuka L, T Jerusalem YATE 26 Jun (MTe).

COM. GOLDENEYE (R3): 1-4 Holiday Harbour ONTA 1 Jun-20 Jul (CJa, ph); 2 Sen L SP 12-15 Jun (mob, ph).

Hooded Merganser: max 11 Hile School Hill Rd Wetland TOMP 3 Jul (CW), high.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 3 Sen L SP 11-15 Jun (TL, ph), high.

Ruddy Duck: MNWR 11 & 25 Aug, low.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 159 MNWR 12 Aug (CJa), high.

HORNED GREBE (R3): 1-3 Sen L SP 1-23 Jun (mob, ph).

RED-NECKED GREBE (R3): 2 Sen L SP 11 Aug (TL, ph).

Com. Nighthawk: arr 2 City of Ithaca 12 Aug; TDry 12 Aug; max 11 TDry 24 Aug.

RAILS - LARIDS

Com. Gallinule: max 250 MNWR 20 Aug (MSc), high.

Am. Coot: max 405 MNWR 29 Aug (LK), high.

Sandhill Crane: max 22 MNWR 4 Aug (MBr), high.

AM. AVOCET (R3): MNWR 1-5 Jun (mob, ph).

Black-bellied Plover: last MNWR 3 Jun; arr 3 MNWR 25 Jul (TL, ph), early; max 10 MNWR 25 Aug.

Am. Golden-Plover: 4 MNWR 22 Aug; 2 MNWR 28 Aug.

Semipalmated Plover: last MNWR 23 Jun (BwF, ph), late; arr MNWR 4 Jul (SP), early; max 55 MNWR 11 Aug.

Upland Sandpiper: max 5 T Seneca Falls SENE 14-20 Jul.

Whimbrel: arr Cyg L, T Seneca Falls SENE 18 Jul; MNWR 19 Jul; 2 Clute Memorial P SCHU 21 Jul; MyPt 22 Jul.

Ruddy Turnstone: last MNWR 1 Jun; arr & max 3 MNWR 25 Jul.

RED KNOT (R3): MyPt 30-31 Aug (mob, ph).

RUFF: MNWR 4-10 Aug (mob, ph).

Stilt Sandpiper: arr 2 MNWR 13 Jul; max 13 MNWR 26 Jul.

Sanderling: arr MNWR 22 Jul; 2 Cyg L, Aurora 22 Jul; 10 MyPt 22 Jul; max 40 Long Pt SP 22 Jul (JMc); 40 MNWR 23 Jul (TL), high.

Dunlin: last MNWR 9 Jun; arr 5 MNWR 4 Aug.

Baird's Sandpiper: arr MNWR 5 Aug; max 7 MNWR 29 Aug.

Least Sandpiper: last MNWR 23 Jun (DNu), late; arr 2 MNWR 4 Jul; max 200 MNWR 25 Aug.

White-rumped Sandpiper: last MNWR 15 Jun (mob!), late; arr 2 MNWR 26 Jul; max 18 MNWR 2 Jun (JMc, KMcGo), high.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: arr MNWR 25 Aug.

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr MNWR 10 Jul; max 125 MNWR 25 Aug.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: last MNWR 15 Jun; arr MNWR 14 Jul; max 300 MNWR 4 Aug.

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr 7 MNWR 15 Jul; max 18 MNWR 25 Aug.

Long-billed Dowitcher: arr MNWR 16 Jul (TL!), early; max 9 MNWR 23 Aug.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr 2 Dunn Field Fishing Access CHEM 15 Jun; max 9 MNWR 16 Aug.

Lesser Yellowlegs: last Watkins Glen Central High School 2 Jun; MNWR 2 Jun; arr 4 MNWR 23 Jun; max 500 MNWR date (JMc, LSa), high.

WILLET (R3): MNWR 17 Jul (MGU, PMA, SP!).

Greater Yellowlegs: last MNWR 2 Jun; arr MNWR 22 Jun; max 180 MNWR 26 Jul (AMi), high.

Wilson's Phalarope: last MNWR 8 Jun (mob, ph), late; arr MNWR 12 Jul.

Bonaparte's Gull: last & max 6 Aurora Bay CAYU 10 Jun (MAI, ID, SD), late and high; arr Taughannock Falls SP 2 Jul.

Ring-billed Gull: max 3000 Sen L SP 22 Aug (TL), high.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: last MyPt 14 Jun (JCu, ID, TM), late; MyPt 9 Jul (JMc), rare in mid-sum.

Great Black-backed Gull: max 13 Harris P CAYU 29 Aug (TL), high.

Black Tern: max 45 MNWR 17 Jul (MGU, PMA), high.

LOONS – PARROTS

Com. Loon: max 11 Cyg L, Aurora 22 Jul.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 400 MyPt 24 Aug (JMc), high.

SNOWY EGRET (R3): MNWR 8 Jun (DSH, MTel!).

CATTLE EGRET (R3): MNWR 12-13 Jun (DK, ph; mob, ph).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 25 MNWR 11 Aug (DNi), high.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (R3): Fall Creek, Freeville 26 Jun (LLSF, ph); MNWR 21 Jul-28 Aug (mob, ph).

Black Vulture: 2 T Ithaca & TDry 22 Jul-30 Aug (mob, ph).

Turkey Vulture: max 100 Taughannock Falls SP 4 Aug (Chi), high.

Osprey: max 17 MNWR 4 Jul (CW), high.

BARN OWL (R3): T Thurston STEU 30 Jun (DO!); T Thurston STEU 20 Aug (DB!).

Belted Kingfisher: 8 Queen Catharine Marsh SCHU 28 Jul (JeCo), high.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 8 TDan 17 Aug (WEv); 8 BLNA 30 Aug (EL), high.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Olive-sided Flycatcher: last Caswell Road Grasslands TOMP 7 June (CuHa, DWe); arr BLNA 5 Aug (KR!), early.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last Summerhill State Forest CAYU 3 Jun; arr NE Ith 29 Jul (KR!), early; max 3 Finger Lakes National Forest SENE 26 Aug (LK), high.

Acadian Flycatcher: max 7 Cayuta Gulf SCHU 14 Jul (JMc, LSA), high.

Philadelphina Vireo: arr CU 23 Aug.

Blue Jay: max 47 Boggy Bottom TOMP 21 Aug (WB), high.

Tufted Titmouse: max 16 Queen Catharine Marsh SCHU 21 Jul (CW), high.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 24 Bonavista SP Golf Course SENE 23 Aug (TL), high.

Brown Creeper: max 6 SHSF TOMP 17 Jun (mob), high.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: last 2 NE Ith 1 Jun, nocturnal.

Swainson's Thrush: max & last 5 NE Ith 1 Jun; arr TDan 19 Jul (WEv, recording), nocturnal, early.

Am. Robin: max 314 T Enfield TOMP 28 Aug (PR), high.

Cedar Waxwing: max 75 Jennings Pd TOMP 24 Aug (WEv), high.

Red Crossbill: Finger Lakes National Forest SCHU 16 Jun (MMu, recording).

Pine Siskin: max 15 T Caroline TOMP 10 Jun (SKe), high; 11 Hammond Hill TOMP 5 Jun.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Chipping Sparrow: max 50 BLNA 26 Aug (EL), high.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT (R3): MR 10 Jul (CW!).

Bobolink: max 2000 MNWR 26 Aug (MH), high.

Orchard Oriole: max 7 MyPt (JMc), high.

Worm-eating Warbler: LPBP 12-17 Jun.

Louisiana Waterthrush: max 5 Buttermilk Falls SP 15 Jun; last 2 T Big Flats CHEM 5 Aug.

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER (R3): SW 12 Aug (NB, MaC!, JMc).

GOLDEN-WINGED X BLUE-WINGED WARBLER (R3): TDan 26 Jun (PMc, ph).

“LAWRENCE’S” WARBLER (R3): SW 11 Aug (AGC, ph).

Black-and-white Warbler: max 7 LPBP (AD, KRo), high.

Prothonotary Warbler: max 3 MNWR (CW), high.

Tennessee Warbler: arr NE Ith 15 Aug.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER (R3): SW 30 Aug (JFr!).

Cape May Warbler: last MR 4 Jun (CW!), late; arr Bonavista SP Golf Course 18 Aug (TL), early; max 3 Roy H Park Preserve TOMP 19 Aug (JMc, LSa), high.

N. Parula: last SHSF TOMP 1 Jun; Roy H Park Preserve 13 Jul (mob, YK, ph); arr Palmer Woods TOMP 23 Aug (JeCo), early.

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr Mundy Wildflower Garden TOMP 12 Aug; max 3 Palmer Woods TOMP 23 Aug (JeCo), high.

Blackpoll Warbler: last 2 T South Bristol ONTA 4 Jun.

Pine Warbler: max 5 MR 1 Jul (CW); 5 TDan 29 Jul (MH), high.

Prairie Warbler: max 7 LPBP 16 Jun (RBu, NK), high.

Canada Warbler: max 12 SHSF TOMP 17 Jun (mob), high.

Wilson's Warbler: arr CU 21 Jun.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 15 CU (mob), high, nocturnal.

BLACK-HEADED X ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK (R3): T Rathbone STEU 10 Aug thru (JFa, NS, ph).