

REGION 3—FINGER LAKES

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In Ithaca, the average high temperature in June 2020 was 77.2° F, 1.2° above normal. The average low was 52.5°, 0.8° below normal. Total rainfall was 2.04", 1.95" less than normal. The average high temperature in July was 84.1°, 4.2° above normal and the average low was 61.3°, 3.6° above normal. Total precipitation was 4.68", 0.85" more than normal. The average high temperature in August was 81.4°, 2.8° above normal. The average low was 57.6°, 1.3° above normal. Total rainfall was 3.74", 0.11" more than normal.

Observers reported high summer counts for several waterfowl species: 800 Canada Geese, 600 Wood Ducks, 48 Blue-winged Teal, 1200 Mallards, 600

Green-winged Teal, 16 Hooded Mergansers, and 65 Common Mergansers. Species scarce this season included a Canvasback on Cayuga Lake, a Ring-necked Duck at Stewart Park in mid-August, a Greater Scaup on Seneca Lake in July and at least one on Cayuga Lake in August, six Lesser Scaup at Seneca Lake State Park in early June, a Long-tailed Duck and four Bufflehead on Seneca Lake in early June, one or two Common Goldeneyes on Seneca, Canandaigua, Keuka, and Cayuga Lakes, and Red-breasted Mergansers on Cayuga Lake and Seneca Lake. Two Red-necked Grebes lingered at the north end of Seneca Lake through early July.

Late were a Pectoral Sandpiper at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge (MNWR) on 4 June and a Whimbrel flying over Seneca Lake on 6 June. Early fall shorebird arrivals were a Black-bellied Plover on 17 July and a Hudsonian Godwit on 10 August, both at MNWR. Nineteen Red Knots, 2000 Semipalmated Sandpipers, and 24 Solitary Sandpipers were summer high counts for those species. Scarce in the Region this season were a rare summer American Avocet at Canandaigua in late July, and an American Golden-Plover, an Upland Sandpiper, a Marbled Godwit, and a Willet all at MNWR in late August.

After a short 15-day absence, Lesser Black-backed Gull reappeared in the Region at Long Point, Seneca Lake, marking an early fall arrival for the species. High counts of gulls and terns were 46 Bonaparte's Gulls, 12,000 Ring-billed Gulls, three Lesser Black-backed Gulls, 170 Black Terns, and 35 Common Terns. Scarce occurrences were a Laughing Gull in the Town of Lodi in mid-June and a Franklin's Gull at Myers Point in early June.

Observers reported high counts with six Least Bitterns, 30 Green Herons, and 55 Black-crowned Night-Herons. An American White Pelican was at MNWR in mid-June and an immature Little Blue Heron showed up at a pond in Schuyler County in early August and subsequently appeared at MNWR and at locations along Cayuga Lake.

High counts of raptor species were 120 Turkey Vultures, 17 Ospreys, six Northern Harriers, five Eastern Screech-Owls, five Merlins, and four Peregrine Falcons. During August, a Black Vulture was observed at locations in the Town of Dryden and one in the gorge in Watkins Glen State Park.

Insectivores with early fall arrivals were a Common Nighthawk over Sapsucker Woods on 24 July, a Sedge Wren at the Bluegrass Lane Natural Area on 23 July, and two Ruby-crowned Kinglets at Watkins Glen High School on 16 August. High counts among miscellaneous insectivores were 13 Red-bellied and 11 Hairy Woodpeckers, two Olive-sided and eight Alder Flycatchers, 2500 Purple Martins, 12 White-breasted Nuthatches, five Sedge and 10 Carolina Wrens, 111 Cedar Waxwings and 13 Orchard Orioles.

High counts among seed-eating birds were 14 Purple Finches, 16 Eastern Towhees, six Clay-colored Sparrows, and 60 Savannah Sparrows. Some "winter" finches made summer appearances. An Evening Grosbeak flew over the Town of Caroline on 13 August. Red Crossbills were observed in the Town of Dryden and at two locations in the Town of Danby. A Pine Siskin was at Sapsucker Woods

on 7 July. Very rare summer reports of Nelson's Sparrow came from two locations in Tompkins County. Dickcissels were at two locations.

A Tennessee Warbler in the Town of Lansing on 1 June was late to depart for the breeding grounds. A Wilson's Warbler in the Town of Dryden on 19 August was early to return from the breeding grounds, three Nashville, seven Mourning, 10 Cape May, 15 Blackburnian, seven Prairie, and 50 Black-throated Green Warblers were high counts. Observations of scarce warblers were of a "Lawrence's" Warbler at Monkey Run in the Town of Dryden on 27 August and of a Yellow-throated Warbler in the Town of Caroline on 26 August.

Some miscellaneous high counts were 220 Rock Pigeons, 15 Belted Kingfishers, and 55 Fish Crows. The latter count was interesting in having come from Geneva near the north end of the Region rather than the species' historical stronghold in the southern end.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

CygL – Cayuga L; **LPBP** – Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Pres, TOMP; **MNWR** – Montezuma NWR; **MyPt** – Myers Pt, TOMP; **SenL** – Seneca L; **SLSP** – Seneca L SP; **SRCP** – Stevenson Rd Compost Piles, TOMP; **SW** – Sapsucker Woods, TOMP; **TCar** – T Caroline, TOMP; **TDry** – T Dryden, TOMP.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: max 12 SenL SENE 1-20 Jun.

Canada Goose: max 800 MNWR 16Aug (KT).

Wood Duck: max 600 MNWR 27 Jun (JM, LiS), high.

Blue-winged Teal: max 48 MNWR 21 Aug (SPe), high.

Mallard: max 1200 MNWR 20 Aug (JM, LiS), high.

Northern Pintail: arr MNWR 11 Jul; max 8 MNWR 13 Aug.

Green-winged Teal: max 600 MNWR 30 Aug, high.

Canvasback: CygL CAYU 26 Jun (RR).

Ring-necked Duck: Stewart P TOMP 20 Aug (JeC).

Greater Scaup: SenL SENE 3 Jul thru; Hog Hole TOMP 16 Aug; MyPt 21 Aug.

Lesser Scaup: max 6 SLSP 1-13 Jun (BeB), high.

Long-tailed Duck: last SenL SCHU 2 Jun (GH, AJ, MJ), late.

Bufflehead: max & last 4 SenL SENE 8 Jun (TL), high.

Common Goldeneye: 1-2 SenL SENE 1 Jun-3 Jul; Canandaigua L ONTA 3-28 Jun; Keuka L YATE 24 Jun; CygL CAYU 18 Jul.

Hooded Merganser: max 16 Turtle Pd SCHU 6 Jun (TA), high.

Common Merganser: max 65 Elmira Dam CHEM 19 Jun (JM), high.

Red-breasted Merganser: 1-2 MyPt 2-5 Jun; SLSP 27 Jul.

Red-necked Grebe: max 2 SenL SENE 6 Jun-4 Jul (mob), high; arr CygL TOMP 23 Aug.

Rock Pigeon: max 220 T Torrey YATE 18 Jul (BBr), high.

Common Nighthawk: last SenL YATE 3 Jun; arr SW 24 Jul (WH), early.

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

AMERICAN AVOCET (R3): City Pier ONTA 28 Jul (mob, ph).

Black-bellied Plover: last 3 MNWR 9 Jun; arr MNWR 17 Jul (BeB), early; max 10 MNWR 29 Aug.

American Golden-Plover: MNWR 28 Aug (ReS).

Semipalmated Plover: last MNWR 20 Jun; arr MNWR 21 Jul; max 30 MNWR 30 Aug.

Upland Sandpiper: MNWR 23 Aug (JM).

Whimbrel: last SenL SENE 6 Jun (TL!), late; arr & max 10 MNWR TOMP 2 Aug.

Hudsonian Godwit: arr MNWR 10-13 Aug (mob, ph), early.

Marbled Godwit: MNWR 17-21 Aug (mob, ph).

Ruddy Turnstone: max 9 Kershaw P ONTA 1 Jun; last 2 MNWR 13 Jun; arr MNWR 4 Aug.

Red Knot: last & max 19 City Pier ONTA 1 Jun (DDa), high; arr MNWR 28 Aug.

Stilt Sandpiper: arr MNWR 22 Jul; max 19 MNWR 31 Aug.

Sanderling: last Geneva Lakefront P 2 Jun; arr & max 2 Elmira Dam CHEM 2 Jun; MyPt 1 Jun.

Dunlin: max 15 MNWR 2 Jun; ast MNWR 13 Jun.

Baird's Sandpiper: arr MNWR 10 Aug; max 8 MNWR 30 Aug.

Least Sandpiper: last 4 MNWR 4 Jun; arr 2 MNWR 8 Jul; max 60 Queen Catharine Marsh SCHU 15 Aug.

White-rumped Sandpiper: last MNWR 9 Jun; arr MyPt 4 Aug; max 6 MNWR 23 Aug.

Pectoral Sandpiper: last MNWR 4 Jun (TL, ph), late; arr 2 MNWR 8 Jul; max 35 MNWR 20 Aug.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 2000 MNWR 2 Jun (JM), high; last 10 MNWR 12 Jun; arr SRCP 18 Jul.

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr 4 MNWR 8 Jul; max 10 MNWR 11 & 18 Aug; 10 T Canandaigua ONTA 30 Aug.

Long-billed Dowitcher: arr MNWR 16 Aug; max 2 MNWR 22 Aug.

Solitary Sandpiper: last MNWR 12 Jun; arr MNWR 4 Jul; max 24 LPBP 15 & 24 Aug (JM, LiS), high.

Lesser Yellowlegs: last MNWR 2 Jun; arr MNWR 5 Jul; max 400 MNWR 10 Aug.
Willet: SLSP 25-28 Aug (mob, ph).
Greater Yellowlegs: arr MNWR 5 Jul; max 150 MNWR 17 & 23 Aug.
Wilson's Phalarope: arr MNWR 20 Aug; max 3 MNWR 23 Aug.
Red-necked Phalarope: max 4 MNWR 2-3 Jun (JM, MG), high; last 3 MNWR 4 Jun (TL), high; arr MNWR 9 Aug.
Bonaparte's Gull: max 46 Frontenac Harbor Marina 2 Jun (JM), high.
Laughing Gull: T Lodi SENE 21 Jun (JKA!).
Franklin's Gull: Myer's Pt TOMP 2 Jun (JM, ph).
Ring-billed Gull: max 12,000 T Genoa CAYU (JM, LiS), high.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: max 3 Cass P TOMP 1 Jun (MCI); 3 SenL YATE 3 Jun (TL), high; last Long Pt YATE 11 Jun; arr Long Pt YATE 26 Jun (GH, JH, MJ), early.
Black Tern: max 170 MNWR 11 Jul (AD, KRo), high.
Common Tern: max 35 Frontenac Harbor Marina CAYU 2 Jun (JM), high.
Forster's Tern: last Seneca Yacht Club SENE 4 Jun.

LOONS – PARAKEET

American White Pelican: MNWR 10 Jun (DDu, ph).
Least Bittern: max 6 MNWR 26 Jun (DK), high.
Little Blue Heron: Mark Smith Pd SCHU 6-10 Aug (mob, ph); MNWR 10-11 Aug (mob, ph); Farley's Pt CAYU 17 Aug (JM, ph; TSc; DS, ph); Stewart P TOMP 22 Aug (mob, ph).
Green Heron: max 30 LPBP 15 Aug (JM, LiS), high.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 55 MNWR 23 Aug (JM, BMc), high.
Black Vulture: arr SRCP 9 Aug (JE), early; MR 24 Aug; Watkins Glen SP 28 Aug; TDry 29 Aug.
Turkey Vulture: max 120 SRCP 28 Aug (JCu, JGa, CH), high.
Osprey: max 17 MNWR 19 Jul (MaR), high.
Northern Harrier: max 6 Belle School Railroad Trail TOMP 21 Jul (SPo), high.
Eastern Screech-Owl: max 5 Northeast Elementary School Woods TOMP 18 Jun (MCh); 5 Ringwood House TOMP 6 & 15 Aug (mob), high.
Belted Kingfisher: max 15 LPBP 27 Jul (AD), high.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 13 MR 22 Jun (CW), high.
Hairy Woodpecker: max 11 SW 15 Aug (BoR), high.
Merlin: max 5 Turkey Hill TOMP 17 Jun (SO), high.
Peregrine Falcon: max 4 Taughannock Falls SP TOMP 20 Jun (JDi, AD), high.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Olive-sided Flycatcher: last MR 7 Jun; arr Dryden L TOMP 12 Aug; max 2 T Van Etten CHEM (JoCo, MP), high.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last T Canandaigua ONTA 9 Jun; Durland Preserve TOMP 9 Jun; arr TDry 5 Aug; max 2 T Jerusalem YATE 30 Aug.
Alder Flycatcher: max 8 T Newfield TOMP 30 Jul (mob), high.
Philadelphia Vireo: arr Palmer Woods TOMP 28 Aug.
Fish Crow: max 55 One Franklin Square ONTA 30 Aug (TL), high.
Purple Martin: max 2500 MNWR 15 Aug (TL), high.
Black-capped Chickadee: max 60 Roy H Park Preserve TOMP 22 Aug (JGa, BrR), high.
White-breasted Nuthatch: max 12 T Danby TOMP (WE), high.
Sedge Wren: arr Bluegrass Lane Natural Area TOMP 23 Jul (mob, rec), early; max 5 EFGA 25 Aug (JM), high.
Carolina Wren: max 10 Waterloo 3 Jun (RaS), high.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr 2 Watkins Glen High School SCHU 16 Aug (MT), early.
Swainson's Thrush: last Northeast Ithaca 2 Jun; arr EFGA 13 Aug; max 4 MR 31 Aug.
Cedar Waxwing: max 111 T Starkey YATE 19 Aug (TSh), high.
Evening Grosbeak: TCar 13 Aug (TA).
Purple Finch: max 14 T Van Etten CHEM (JoCo), high.
Red Crossbill: 2 TDry 30 Jun; T Danby TOMP 7 Jul; Finger Lakes Trail TOMP 9 Jul.
Pine Siskin: SW 7 Jul (LyS).

NEW WORLD – SPARROWS-CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: max 16 Arnot Forest TOMP 22 Aug (SB, BWa), high.
Clay-colored Sparrow: max 6 T Lodi SENE 23 Jun (JM), high.
Savannah Sparrow: max 60 T Fayette SENE 31 Aug (TL), high.

Grasshopper Sparrow: max 10 T Ovid SENE 21 Jun; last T Ovid SENE 17 Aug.

NELSON’S SPARROW (R3): Goetchicus Wetland Preserve TOMP 2 Jun (JGa, ph); Hile School Road Wetland TOMP 7 Jun (LC, MJ, ST!).

Orchard Oriole: max 13 Salt Pt Natural Area TOMP 14 Jul (JM), high.

Louisiana Waterthrush: max 5 Ludlowville Fishing Access TOMP 16 Jul; last Roy H Park Preserve TOMP 15 Aug.

“Lawrence’s” Warbler: MR 27 Aug (CW!).

Tennessee Warbler: last Arrowwood Drive Trails TOMP 1 Jun (NB), late; arr T Lansing TOMP 29 Jul; max 2 EFGA 26 Aug; 2 Cornell University 27 Aug.

Nashville Warbler: max 3 Summerhill State Forest CAYU 1 Jun (ChJ, JeJ, MJ), high.

Mourning Warbler: max 7 Arnot Forest TOMP 7 Jun (BWa), high.

Cape May Warbler: arr Northeast Ithaca TOMP 20 Aug; max 10 MNWR 30 Aug (TL, JM, DNi), high.

Northern Parula: TDry 18 Jul (TSc!); arr TCar 26 Aug.

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr Ringwood House TOMP 25 Aug; max 2 Bishop Preserve SENE 26 Aug.

Blackburnian Warbler: max 15 Hammond Hill State Forest TOMP 4 Jul (JM, LiS), high.

Yellow-throated Warbler: TCar 26 Aug (BeB!).

Prairie Warbler: max 7 LPBP 8-29 Jun (mob), high.

Black-throated Green Warbler: max 50 Fillmore Glen SP 19 Jun (JaJ), high.

Wilson’s Warbler: arr TDry 19 Aug (JE!), early.

Dickcissel: Hopeton Rd YATE 2-14 Jun; Ridge Rd YATE 13-14 Jun; Cornell University 25 Aug; MyPt 25 Aug.