

REGION 3—FINGER LAKES

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Every month in Summer 2021 was wetter than normal. June and August were warmer than normal. July was cooler. The average low temperature in June was 56.1° F, 2.7° above normal. The average high was 78.6°, 2.9° above normal. Total rainfall in June was 4.42", 0.44" more than normal. July's average low was 57.7°, 0.2° below normal. The average high was 78.5°, 1.4° below normal. Rainfall that month totaled 6.32", 2.42" more than normal. In August, the average low temperature was 60.6°, 4.3° above normal, and the average high was 80.8°, 2.3° above normal. Total rainfall was 6.24", 2.47" more than normal.

Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) hosted high numbers of Mallards in late July. Also there in mid-August was a high count of Blue-winged Teal. Elsewhere in the Region was a high count of Hooded Mergansers in Van Etten in early June and a high count of Red-breasted Mergansers on Seneca Lake in late July. Scarce species included small numbers of Northern Shovelers in three locations and Ruddy Ducks in two locations. A Greater Scaup was at Stewart Park in mid-June, a Black Scoter was on Seneca Lake in mid-July, and a Common Goldeneye was at Myers Point in late July. Rarities were **Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks** and **Eurasian Wigeon**. A small flock of the Whistling-Ducks was at Cayuga Lake State Park in mid-June. Two more were at Montezuma NWR in late July and early August. Another was at Myers Point in mid-August. The Eurasian Wigeon was at Montezuma NWR in late August.

A high count of Ruffed Grouse in Van Etten included a large covey. Three sightings of Horned Grebe may have been of the same bird. The first was at the Waneta Lamoka Wildlife Management Area (WMA) on 2 July. Four days later, a Horned Grebe was at Myers Point. Five days after that, one was at Long Point State Park. A Red-necked Grebe was on Seneca Lake for a week in mid-July.

A growing infestation of Gypsy Moths in the Region was likely responsible for cuckoos being much in evidence. Observers submitted high counts for Yellow-billed Cuckoo at Hi Tor WMA and in Van Etten. The only Eastern Whip-poor-will report came from the Town of Caroline in early June.

Sandhill Cranes peaked at Montezuma NWR with a high count at the end of July. A high count of Killdeer was in Dryden in late August and of Long-billed Dowitcher at Montezuma NWR in mid-August. Late spring departures were Semipalmated Sandpipers and Lesser Yellowlegs at Montezuma NWR. Observers reported the early fall arrival of Ruddy Turnstone, Semipalmated Sandpiper, and Lesser Yellowlegs. The only report of Upland Sandpiper was of a displaying bird in Seneca Falls in early July. Reports of Laughing Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, and Forster's Tern all came from Tompkins County.

The Region had several interesting reports of long-legged waders. These included high counts of Least Bitterns and Great Egrets at Montezuma NWR and Green Herons at a wetland in Dryden. A **Wood Stork** at Montezuma NWR from mid-July through mid-August was the Region's first summer record. A Little Blue Heron made three separate appearances at Montezuma NWR between late July and late August. Individual Cattle Egrets briefly showed up in the Town of Canandaigua in early June, in the City of Canandaigua in late June, at Montezuma NWR at the end of July and beginning of August, and one in Dryden also in the beginning of August. A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was at Taughannock Falls State Park in the beginning of July and reappeared at Cass Park in Ithaca two weeks later. Finally, the Region's first **Roseate Spoonbill** appeared at Montezuma NWR in mid-July and stayed through the end of the season.

Two Black Vultures were in the Ithaca-Dryden area for most of the season. The only other report came from Benton in Yates County. At the compost piles in Dryden, Turkey Vultures and Red-tailed Hawks produced high counts. A **Swallow-tailed Kite** in Yates County the last half of August was the Region's fourth record.

Sapsucker Woods produced a high count of Pileated Woodpeckers. At Allan H Treman State Marine Park, a family of Merlins accounted for a high count and at Taughannock Falls State Park, lingering fledgling Peregrine Falcons contributed to a high count for that species. Red-headed Woodpeckers were at five locations in three counties.

Two flycatcher high counts were Yellow-bellied Flycatchers at Danby State Forest and Eastern Phoebe at Hi Tor WMA. Montezuma NWR produced a high count of Warbling Vireos. A field in the Town of Fayette hosted a high count of Horned Larks. The Boiceville Nature Walk allowed observers to find a high count of Tufted Titmice.

Usually very scarce, Sedge Wrens were found at four locations in three counties. Counts of 16 Veeries at two locations were the season's highest counts, but were, nonetheless, low compared to other years. A Swainson's Thrush in Van Etten was a late spring migrant. Cedar Waxwings, always abundant in late summer, managed a high count at Montezuma NWR.

Some "winter" finches lingered into summer. A Pine Siskin was in Erwin in early July. An Evening Grosbeak lingered late into early June at a Van Etten feeding station. A high count of Red Crossbills was in Danby in early June and the last one was reported from Hammond Hill State Forest in mid-July. High counts of Purple Finches and American Goldfinches came from Van Etten and Beebe Lake, respectively.

Observers turned in high counts for several species of sparrows: Eastern Towhees at Sampson State Park, Chipping Sparrows at the Bluegrass Lane Natural Area, Field Sparrows at Bare Hill Natural Area, Savannah Sparrows in Fayette, and Song Sparrows at Montezuma NWR. Another high count to mention here, also at Montezuma, is a huge number of Red-winged Blackbirds. Back to sparrows, the only report of Clay-colored Sparrow came from Lodi in mid-June.

Warbler high counts included Chestnut-sided Warblers in Arnot Forest, Black-throated Blue Warblers in Shindagin Hollow State Forest, and Prairie Warblers at Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve in early June; and Tennessee Warblers and Northern Parulas in Danby State Forest and Bay-breasted Warblers in Sapsucker Woods in late August. A Wilson's Warbler arrived early at Montezuma NWR in mid-August. Finally, a high count of Dickcissels were in Phelps with reports of the species coming from there mid-June through mid-August.

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ABBREVIATIONS

BL – Beebe L, TOMP; **DSF** – Danby State Forest, TOMP; **LPBP** – Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Pres, TOMP; **MNWR** – Montezuma NWR; **MR** – Monkey Run, TOMP; **MyPt** – Myers Pt, TOMP; **SenL** – Seneca L; **SRCP** – Stevenson Rd Compost Piles, TOMP; **StP** – Stewart P, TOMP; **SW** – Sapsucker Woods, TOMP; **TCar** – T Caroline, TOMP; **TDry** – T Dryden, TOMP; **Tith** – T Ithaca, TOMP; **TVE** – T Van Etten, CHEM.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK: 7

Cayuga L SP 11 Jun (mob, ph), high; 1-2 MNWR 29 Jul-8 Aug (mob, ph); MyPt 15 Aug (mob, ph).

Blue-winged Teal: max 50 MNWR 21 Aug (mob), high.

Northern Shoveler: 2 Seneca Harbor Park 12 Jun; North Montezuma WMA 17 Jun; MNWR 24 Jun; 1-9 MNWR 21 Jul thru.

Eurasian Wigeon: MNWR 28 Aug thru (mob).

Mallard: max 2000 MNWR 29 Jul (JMc), high.

Greater Scaup: StP 11 Jun (JMc!).

Black Scoter: SenL SENE 10-18 Jul (mob).

Common Goldeneye: MyPt 20-22 Jul (mob, ph).

Hooded Merganser: max 24 TVE 5 Jun (JoCo, MPe!), high.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 5 SenL SENE 20-24 Jul (TLe!), high.

Ruddy Duck: max 5 Tileyard Pds ONTA 4 Jul (TLe, SW); 2 MNWR 4 Jul (RoM); MNWR 25 Jul (mob).

Ruffed Grouse: max 18 TVE 16 Jun (JoCo, MPe!), high.

Horned Grebe: Waneta Lamoka WMA SCHU 2 Jul (JoCo, ph); MyPt 6 Jul (JMc, ph); Long Pt SP 11 Jul (OBC, ZVZ, ph).

Red-necked Grebe: 2 SenL SENE 11-18 Jul (mob, ph).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: max 6 Hi Tor WMA YATE 2 Jun (BiHo!), high; 6 TVE 24 Jun (JoCo!), high.

Common Nighthawk: last Tlth 24 Jun; arr MyPt 15 Aug; max 21 Catharine Creek WMA 16 Aug.

Eastern Whip-poor-will: TCar 3 Jun (SPo!).

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

Sandhill Crane: max 40 MNWR 31 Jul (CGo, JGo!), high.

Black-bellied Plover: last MNWR 6 Jun; arr MNWR 10 Aug; max 7 MNWR 2 Jun.

Semipalmated Plover: last MNWR 14 Jun; arr 2 MNWR 4 Jul; max 50 MNWR 11 Aug.

Killdeer: max 280 TDry 29 Aug (THE, SO), high.

Upland Sandpiper: T Seneca Falls SENE 1 Jul (RSt).

Whimbrel: 2 City Pier ONTA 2 Jun; StP 10 Aug.

Ruddy Turnstone: max 15 MNWR 1 Jun; last MNWR 4 Jun; arr MNWR 8 Jul (JJ), early.

Stilt Sandpiper: arr 3 MNWR 4 Aug; max 21 MNWR 11 Aug.

Sanderling: arr MNWR 1 Aug.

Dunlin: max 2 MNWR 2 Jun; last Sullivanville Dam CHEM 6 Jun.

Baird's Sandpiper: arr MNWR 29 Jul.

Least Sandpiper: last 34 MNWR 14 Jun; arr MNWR 29 Jun; max 400 MNWR 19 Aug.

White-rumped Sandpiper: last MNWR 2 Jun; arr TDry 18 Jul; max 2 MNWR 4 Aug; 2 MNWR 11 Aug.

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 4 MNWR 7 Jul; max 34 MNWR 4 Aug.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: last 3 MNWR 18 Jun (JeCo), late; arr MNWR 27 Jun (KGa), early; max 200 MNWR 4 Aug; 200 MNWR 11 Aug.

Short-billed Dowitcher: last MNWR 14 Jun (JoMi), late; arr 3 MNWR 16 Jul; max 31 MNWR 17 Aug.

Long-billed Dowitcher: arr 6 MNWR 29 Jul; max 15 MNWR 12 Aug (SJ, RRei), high.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr MNWR 24 Jun; max 11 Locke Rd Marsh TOMP 11 Aug.

Lesser Yellowlegs: last 4 MNWR 10 Jun (KCo), late; arr MNWR 19 Jun (MM), early; max 200 MNWR 4 Aug.

Greater Yellowlegs: last MNWR 15 Jun; arr MNWR 22 Jun; max 100 MNWR 7 Aug.

Wilson's Phalarope: arr MNWR 4 Aug.

Red-necked Phalarope: arr MNWR 29 Jul; max 3 MNWR 21 Aug.

Laughing Gull: 2 MyPt 19-21 Aug; MR 23 Aug; StP 26 Aug.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Hog Hole TOMP 19 Jun (KE); StP 14 Jul (THE).

Forster's Tern: 5 MyPt 19 Aug (mob, ph).

LOONS – PARAKEET

WOOD STORK: MNWR 20 Jul-17 Aug (mob, ph).

Least Bittern: max 8 MNWR 12 Jul (MK!), high.

Great Egret: max 287 MNWR 7 Aug (Dda), high.

Little Blue Heron: MNWR 28 Jul (JAp!); MNWR 11 Aug (mob, ph); MNWR 29 Aug (BCa; JMc, ph; MM, ph).

Cattle Egret: T Canandaigua ONTA 3 Jun (MarBr, ph); City Pier ONTA 29 Jun (KGa, ph); MNWR 30 Jul-2 Aug (mob, ph); SRCP 1 Aug (mob, ph).

Green Heron: max 66 Hile School Road Wetland TOMP 31 Aug (ABC), high.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: Taughannock Falls SP 1-3 Jul (mob, ph); Cass P TOMP 18-22 Jul (mob, ph).

ROSEATE SPOONBILL: MNWR 11 Jul thru.

Black Vulture: 2 Tlth 5 Jun; 1-2 SRCP 15 Jun-2 Aug; Fidlers Pd 6 Aug; Cornell Botanic Gardens TOMP 8 Aug; MR 15 Aug; T Benton YATE 26 Aug.

Turkey Vulture: max 142 SRCP 20 Jul (JMc!), high.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: T Benton and T Jerusalem YATE 15-31 Aug (mob, ph).

Red-tailed Hawk: max 5 SRCP 1 Aug (JGar), high.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 1-2 Trumansburg 22 Jun-26 Jul; 1-2 T Seneca Falls SENE 28-21 Aug; Hile School Road Wetland TOMP 1 Jun; T Potter YATE 1-19 Jun; MyPt 10-12 Jun; Ludlowville 28 Aug.

Pileated Woodpecker: max 7 SW 2 Jul (GK), high.

Merlin: max 6 Allan H Treman State Marine P TOMP 27 Jun (KMcGo!), high.

Peregrine Falcon: 5 Taughannock Falls SP 23 Jun (PHe, MWin!), high.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Olive-sided Flycatcher: last MNWR 6 Jun; arr SW 19 Aug.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last Dryden L TOMP 6 Jun; arr Tlth 6 Aug; max 3 DSF 29 Aug (mob), high.

Eastern Phoebe: max 20 Hi Tor WMA YATE 10 Jul (TSh), high.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr Goetchicus Wetland Preserve TOMP 26 Aug; max 2 Willard WMA SENE 28 Aug; 2 BL 30 Aug.

Warbling Vireo: max 15 MNWR 10 Jun (LCB, StBe), high.

Horned Lark: max 50 T Fayette SENE 31 Aug (TLe), high.

Tufted Titmouse: max 20 Boiceville Road Nature Walk TOMP 23 Jun (PMarr), high.

Sedge Wren: T Farmington ONTA 29 Jun-13 Jul; T Ovid SENE 30 Jun-1 Jul; MNWR 4-6 Aug; 1-3 T Reading SCHU 8-16 Aug.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr Tlth 28 Aug.

Veery: max 16 Cliffside State Forest SCHU 6 Jun; 16 Michigan Hollow TOMP 2 Jul, low.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: last Northeast Ithaca 1 Jun; MR 1 Jun; T Enfield TOMP 1 Jun.

Swainson's Thrush: max 4 Northeast Ithaca 1 Jun; 4 MR 31 Aug; last TVE 8 Jun (JoCo), late; arr T Dryden 13 Aug.

Cedar Waxwing: max 150 MNWR 28 Aug (mob), high.

Evening Grosbeak: last TVE 4 Jun (JoCo, MPe), late.

Purple Finch: max 16 TVE 5 Aug (JoCo), high.

Red Crossbill: max 25 T Danby 9 Jun (WE), high; last Hammond Hill State Forest 13 Jul (CWo).

Pine Siskin: last T Erwin STEU 9 Jul.

American Goldfinch: max 200 BL 23 Aug (SRa), high.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: max 16 Sampson SP 30 Jul (DBem, TBe), high.

Chipping Sparrow: max 50 Bluegrass Lane Natural Area TOMP 31 Aug (SBi, BW), high.

Clay-colored Sparrow: T Lodi SENE 17 Jun (mob).

Field Sparrow: max 22 Bare Hill Natural Area YATE 21 Jun (EC), high.

Savannah Sparrow: max 60 T Fayette SENE 16 Aug (TLe), high.

Song Sparrow: max 68 MNWR 23 Jul, high.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 50,000 MNWR 14 Aug (mob), high.

Worm-eating Warbler: 1-2 LPBP 10-19 Jun; last LPBP 1 Aug.

Louisiana Waterthrush: max 9 Cayuta Gulf SCHU 19 Jun; last Ringwood House TOMP 15 Aug.

“Brewster’s” Warbler: Jennings Pd TOMP 14 Jul (DTo!).

“Lawrence’s” Warbler: TCar 12 Jul (TA, ph).

Tennessee Warbler: arr SenL SP 15 Aug; max 7 DSF 29 Aug (mob), high.

Connecticut Warbler: arr MR 30 Aug.

Cape May Warbler: arr 2 Salt Pt Natural Area TOMP 15 Aug; max 7 T Hector SCHU 28 Aug.

Northern Parula: arr Cornell University 22 Aug (IS, STa, AVi); Palmer Woods TOMP 22 Aug (CL), early; max 2 DSF 29 Aug (mob), high.

Bay-breasted Warbler: last Northeast Ithaca 1 Jun (JMc, rec; KRo), late; arr MR 16 Aug; max 4 SW 28 Aug (MHa), high.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 30 Arnot Forest TOMP 5 Jun (SBi, BW!), high.

Blackpoll Warbler: last TVE 9 Jun; TDry 29 Jun-1 Jul (MPi, rec); arr BL 28 Aug; TCar 28 Aug.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 18
Shindagin Hollow State Forest TOMP 3 Jun
(PMarr, PMc), high.
Prairie Warbler: max 7 LPBP 7 & 16 Jun
(MaGi), high.

Wilson’s Warbler: last StP 3 Jun; arr MNWR
16 Aug (DK, ph), early.
Dickcissel: 1-4 T Phelps ONTA 13 Jun-12
Aug (TLe, ph; mob), high.

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