

Wilson Pond General Biological Survey #521029
Jonathan Fieroh, Region 5 Fisheries

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Wilson Pond (UH-P653) is a remote 8-acre water located in the Blue Ridge Wilderness of Hamilton County. The maximum depth is 17 feet, the average depth is 9 feet, and there was adequate dissolved oxygen for trout to a depth of 15 feet in this late June survey. Wilson Pond has been stocked with trout since 1946 and was last surveyed by DEC in 1992 (#592011). The 1992 survey collected five brook trout and 248 non-native golden shiners. A water sample was drawn for chemical analysis and the pH and ANC values have notably improved (from 6.55 pH, 36.7 µeq/L in the 1992 survey). As is currently the case in most waters with improving acid base chemistry, the conductivity was somewhat reduced.

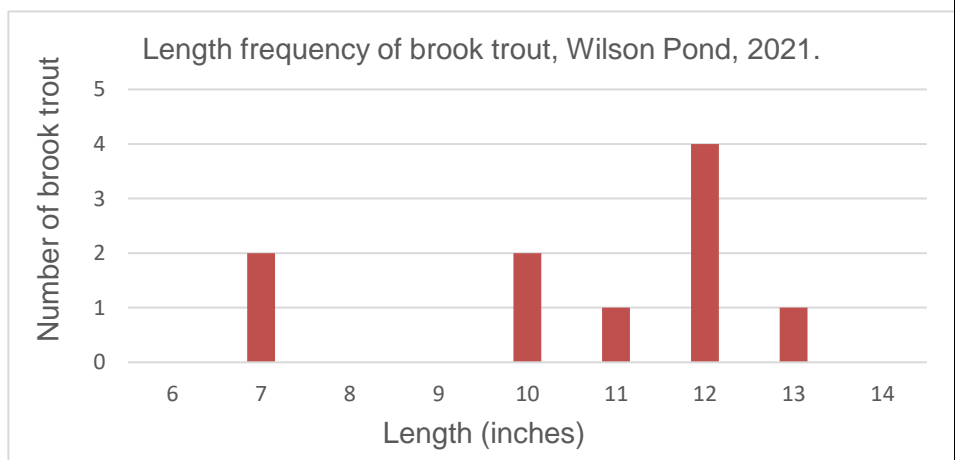
Table 1. Wilson Pond water chemistry variables, 2021.

Year	Depth (feet)	Air Equilibrated pH (pH units)	Acid Neutralizing Capacity (µeq/L)	Conductivity (µmhos/cm)	Silica (mg L ⁻¹)
2021	5	7.04	60.4	17.1	1.8
	12	6.74	42.0	15.9	3.59

The 2021 fish survey was undertaken primarily to evaluate the stocked brook trout population. In June of 2021, a single Swedish experimental gill net, a minnow trap and a 30-foot minnow net were set overnight. An additional minnow net was set for less than 1 hour. This was done to begin to evaluate short term minnow net sets. Turtle activity very often results in significant damage to these nets in summer overnight sets of this gear type.

A total of 10 brook trout were collected during the survey. The average length of a Wilson Pond brook trout was 11.2 inches with lengths ranging from 7 to 13 inches, and all trout were either 1 or 2 years old. The trout appeared to be in reasonable condition for a water in which non-native golden shiners were very abundant. There were obvious signs of angler use in this remote water.

No additional fish species were discovered in this 2021 survey, so brook trout and golden shiner remain the only inhabitants of Wilson Pond. While only 102 golden shiners were collected, they were documented to be very numerous. The short-term minnow net set was very effective, with 68 golden shiners collected in 0.62 hours. A minnow net of relatively poor-quality set overnight collected only 15 golden shiners.



Despite the extensive golden shiner population, the current stocking regime for 300 Temiscamie x Domestic fall fingerlings is providing a nice brook trout fishery and should continue.

Table 1. Number and length ranges of fish collected at Wilson Pond, 2021.

Species	Number collected	Minimum length (in)	Maximum length (in)
Brook trout	10	7.6	13.3
Golden shiner	102	2.4	3.8