

REGION 9 — DELAWARE-HUDSON

HELEN C. MANSON

September was mild and wet with above average temperatures and much needed rain. October continued the warm trend. The summer-like days lasted through mid month, color came late and was as brilliant as ever. Rain at the end of the month stripped the leaves from the trees. November was a mixture of mild weather followed by cold with a first major snowstorm falling on Thanksgiving Day, when three inches blanketed the mid Hudson Valley. This ushered in a spell of cold that continued to the end of the month.

Due to a good growing season the wild food crop is abundant. Acorns and nut crop will provide food for Wild Turkey, deer and squirrels. Multiflora rose, bittersweet, dogwood and wild grape as well as sumac and abundant weed seeds will enhance the survival of the wintering birds as well as the half-hardy species that tend to linger.

Hawk migration was good, peaking around mid September. Warblers came through in good numbers and Yellow-rumped Warbler lingered well into November feeding on the abundant Poison Ivy berries. Two immature Yellow-crowned Night-Heron were found in Dutchess Co., one 4 Sep in eastern Dutchess and the other on 12 Sep in central Dutchess. Thrush numbers seem way down. Sparrows continue to be found in good numbers in the Stony Kill and Vassar Farm Gardens. A most spectacular sight was a huge flock of blackbirds in the Red Hook area, numbering up to 50,000. They filled the tops of the corn and the trees. Mostly Common Grackle and Red-winged Blackbird, they blackened the sky, perhaps as the Passenger Pigeon did so many years ago. They only stayed a few days, leaving the corn and weed seeds for the resident wintering birds. Pine Siskin passed through in good numbers, few lingering. Red-breasted Nuthatch moved into the area in September, leaving good wintering population, a welcome addition the Region's feeders.

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Abbreviations: WBC - Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: three Rondout Res 5 Nov, one L Carmel 9 Sep (FB). Horned Grebe: one Abel's Pd 31 Oct (BB), one Hudson R 4 Nov (SS). Double-crested Cormorant: two pd on Creek Road DUTC 22 Oct, one Rio Res 1 Nov, most seen in the Hudson R. Am. Bittern: none. Great Egret: six to eight DUTC Sep, one L Carmel 17 Nov. Cattle Egret: one 14 Sep. Tivoli. Green-backed Heron: one Humpo Marsh 27 Oct. Black-crowned Night-Heron: one Humpo Marsh 15 Sep. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: *intro*. Snow Goose: first two in a flock of Canada Geese Lock Sheldrake 30 Aug, first major flight Warwarsing 16 Oct. Brant: 75 DUTC 8 Oct, 200 Warwarsing 18 Oct. Wood Duck: 12 Humpo

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HAWKS-ALCIDS: Hawk watch totals:

	Mt Peter	Trapps	Hook Mt	Butler
Osprey	103	15	436	63
Bald Eagle	3	2	13	17
N. Harrier	85	17	182	238
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1632	124	3922	4841
Cooper's Hawk	75	8	101	312
N. Goshawk	2	1	4	4
Red-shouldered Hawk	68	17	42	147
Broad-winged Hawk	6241	5427	8114	10281
Red-tailed Hawk	382	50	51	137
Rough-legged Hawk	3	3	1	4
Golden Eagle	4		1	
Am. Kestrel	271	19	882	1326
Merlin	24	1	46	65
Peregrine Falcon	7	1	13	22

Black Vulture: now regular in S Oran, Mt Peter, Bear Mountain. Black-bellied Plover: one Amenia 17 Sep. Greater Yellowlegs: four n DUTC 11 Nov, two L Carmel 7 Nov. Solitary Sandpiper: one Beaver Dam 29 Sep. Spotted Sandpiper: one Vassar Farm 11 Oct. White-rumped Sandpiper: one WEST 11 Nov. Baird's Sandpiper: one Warren Sod Farm 5 Sep. Stilt Sandpiper: one WEST 4 Nov. Short-billed Dowitcher: 12 Thompson Pd 28 Oct. Com. Snipe: one 29 Nov. (DF). Lesser Black-backed Gull: three WEST 17 Sep.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: one Stony Kill 14 Oct (ET). Short-eared owl: one Butler Sanctuary, first record there (FB). Com. Nighthawk: singles DUTC 8 and 17 Sep, very scarce. Chimney Swift: 100s Poughkeepsie mid Sep, one Middletown 24 Oct, late (JPT). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: several DUTC Oct, Nov.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: one Canoe Hill 8 Sep (MVW), one Warwarsing 10 Sep. Horned Lark: good wintering numbers in suitable habitat throughout the Region. Tree Swallow: good migration, max 400 Tamrack 23 Sep. Red-breasted Nuthatch: *intro*. Brown Creeper: good sightings in DUTC, SULL Nov. House Wren: most left by late Sep. Winter Wren: one or two most areas. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: one Warwarsing 6 and 16 Sep. Golden-crowned Kinglet: good numbers mid Oct. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: also good numbers. Hermit Thrush: one DUTC 7 Sep, one 30 Sep, only reports. Am. Robin: 100s going to roost near Pleasant Valley. Brown Thrasher: one Claryville 5 Oct.

Am. Pipit: max 50 Stony Kill 11 Oct, as many Willowbrook 27 Oct (MVW), excellent numbers in farmlands ORAN Oct (JPT). N. Shrike: one Separate Rd DUTC 5 Nov.

VIREOS-WARBLED: White-eyed Vireo: one DUTC 8 Sep; one WBC 12-13 Sep. Warbling Vireo: singing Freedom P through 19 Sep. Tennessee Warbler: good migration. Yellow-rumped Warbler: many through Nov, eating Poison Ivy berries. Blackpoll Warbler: arr 4 Sep. Hooded Warbler: one singing Doodletown Rd 6 Sep (ET).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Indigo Bunting: one Vassar Farm 12 Oct. Dickcissel: one briefly Pleasant Valley 24 Oct, one observed well Warren Sod Farm 10 Oct. Am. Tree Sparrow: arr DUTC 27 Oct. Chipping Sparrow: lingered SULL to 8 Nov. Vesper Sparrow: on Stony Kill 14 Oct, one Warren Sod Farms 20 Oct. Savannah Sparrow: many Stony Kill Gardens through Oct, one Vassar Farm 2 Nov. Fox Sparrow: two Stony Kill 23 Oct, two singing Turkey Hollow 30 Oct. Lincoln Sparrow: one 14 Oct, one or two Stony Kill Gardens and Vassar Farm. Swamp Sparrow: max 12 in brush pile Verbank 10 Oct (HM). White-crowned Sparrow: max eight Stony Kill Gardens 11 Oct. Lapland Longspur: one Red Hook 25 Nov. Snow Bunting: max 500 Red Hook 25 Nov. Bobolink: two Vassar Farm 22 Oct, late. E. Meadowlark: three Vassar Farm 30 Nov. Purple Finch, few reported, max five Baird P 25 Oct (WBC), did not linger most areas. Evening Grosbeak: 12 daily at feeder Claryville, max 25 DUTC.

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