

REGION 9 — DELAWARE-HUDSON

HELEN C. MANSON

September and October were generally mild. The flowers continued to bloom and katydids called into early November. October brought only light frost and some late fall color, with the leaves clinging to the trees to the end of the month when rains and strong winds stripped them off. With the above average rainfall and the mild weather continuing into November the ponds and creeks were full and open.

The migration, especially of warblers and hawks, seemed poor. Thrushes in general were scarce. The fall warbler passage was low, with a few lingering into early Oct. However, the hawkwatch stations turned up good numbers. The berry and seed crop appears to be good and should see the hardy and half-hardy species through and take care of any northern finches that might venture down our way. Acorns are plentiful in some areas and there is some corn left from the harvest as well as plenty of weed seeds.

With a seemingly disappointing migration there always seems to be one bird that saves the day. And what a bird! A **Wood Sandpiper** was first identified by Tom Burke at Marshlands Conservancy in Rye on 31 October. A true rarity to the lower 48, it was most cooperative and was observed and photographed by thousands of birders over the next five days. Birders from California to Maine, Quebec and Ontario and points in between were able to observe this rare little visitor. It disappeared to parts unknown with the arrival of a cold front and high winds during the night of 5-6 November. Details have been filed with the NYSARC. Two **Sabine's Gull**, an adult and an immature, were seen with a large flock of Common Tern and Laughing Gull in the same area in September.

Contributors: John Askildsen, Orange County Audubon Society, Sullivan County Audubon Society, Frank Brown, Barbara Butler, Paul DeBenedictis, Valerie Freer, Anne Frey, Florence Germond, Sibyll Gilbert, David Hayes, Jim & Mary Key, Stan Lincoln, Helen Manson, Edger Mearns Bird Club, Barbara Michelin, Alan Peterson, Eleanor Pink, Selden Spencer, John P. Tramontano, Edward Treacy, Marion VanWagner, Otis Waterman.

Abbreviations: BSHW - Butler Sanctuary Hawkwatch; HMHW - Hook Mountain Hawkwatch, MPHW - Mount Peter Hawkwatch; WCr - Wappingers Creek.

LOONS-DUCKS: Pied-billed Grebe: several sighted in DUTC., last L Walton 28 Nov, four L Carmel 9 Nov (FB). Double-crested Cormorant: two Tamarack 11

Nov., one L Gleneda 20 Oct, most are seen in the Hudson R where 20 Cornwall Bay 8 Sep was an excellent increase over previous years EMBC; two Croton Res 25 Nov (SL). Am. Bittern: one Rye 1 Nov. Great Blue Heron: up to five Humpo Marsh, many throughout DUTC. Great Egret: one L Walton 5 Sep, one Great Swamp, Pawling 4 Oct, one Humpo Marsh, several Cornwall Bay early Sep. Little Blue Heron: one Farm Pd, Pawling 4 Oct (SG). Green-backed Heron: rarely noted for second consecutive year (JPT), one WCr 2 Oct, one Vassar Farm 4 Oct, two Humpo Marsh, last Somers 14 Oct. Black-crowned Night-Heron: two WCr 2 Sep (AP). Mute Sawn: continues to increase. Snow Goose: one to two late Sep. into early Oct, built up to flocks mid Oct through Nov. DUTC, 100+ Butler Sanctuary Hawkwatch 4 Oct, 50 over Somers 14 Oct. Brant: one Cornwall Bay 28 Oct. Wood Duck: few Humpo Marsh, eight to ten Claryville 11-19 Sep, good numbers scattered around DUTC Sep-Oct; seven L Walton 12 Nov. Green-winged Teal: arr Ardsley 7 Sep, max 47 on 6 Nov, two Bashakill 23 Sep, 12 Craft Pd 4 Sep, two 24 Oct L Oniad DUTC, ten Humpo Marsh. Am. Black Duck: normal population L Carmel (FB), normal DUTC. Mallard: well reported most areas. N. Pintail: one L Walton 12 Nov, pair Ardsley 4 Oct. Blue-winged Teal: two Claryville 19 Sep, five Beaver Dam 11 Oct, six Kays Pd 19 Oct, few others DUTC. Gadwall: eight Wappingers L 7 Nov. Am. Wigeon: two Wappingers L 7 Nov, two Kays Pd 1 Nov. Redhead: one Kays Pd, DUTC 1 Nov. Ring-necked Duck: first appeared 13 Oct, flock built from 50 to 150 Abels Pd into early Nov, 12 Hunns L 12 Nov. White-winged Scoter: two Tamarack 11 Oct (AF). Black Scoter: 30 Tamarack late Oct (AF). Bufflehead: one Abels Pd 22 Oct, increased to 15 by 6 Nov (HM). Hooded Merganser: three WCr 15 Nov. Com. Merganser: seven Claryville 12 Sep, eight Rondout Res 13 Oct, three WCr 15 Nov, ten Hudson R, Hyde Park 28 Nov. Ruddy Duck: two Abels Pd 29 Oct-2 Nov, 150 L Carmel 8 Oct decreased to 50 through Nov.

HAWK-ALCIDS: Hawkwatch totals:

Species	MPHW	HMHW	BSHW
Osprey	233	345	566
Bald Eagle	2	10	11
N. Harrier	54	162	157
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2342	3803	4033
Cooper's Hawk	118	156	288
N. Goshawk	54	8	10
Red-shouldered Hawk	36	130	130
Broad-winged Hawk	2755	7907	3846
Red-tailed Hawk	462	77	796
Rough-legged Hawk	4		
Golden Eagle	2	3	2
Am. Kestrel	390	914	897
Merlin	30	111	85
Peregrine Falcon	21	13	29

Black Vulture: four ULST 15 Sep, several se ORAN, three Bear Mountain Sep, three feeding on road kill Iona I 11 Oct (EMBC). Osprey: three Abels Pd 25 Nov (JMK), one Cornwall Bay 2 Nov. Bald Eagle: imm over Somers 16 Sep; the pair that bred successfully at Rondout Res returned there by 13 Oct (SCAS), ad Bear Mt 16 Sep, one Tomahawk L 30 Sep (OCAS). N. Harrier: few DUTC Nov, one Bashakill 23 Sep. Sharp-shinned Hawk: several DUTC, some already hunting feeders in yards. Cooper's Hawk: few DUTC, one Bashakill 23 Sep. Red-shouldered Hawk: daily yard area, neighbor feeds scraps to crows and the hawk dines with them (OTW). Broad-winged Hawk: peak 868 MPHWH 16 Sep, peak HMHW and BSHW 19-20 Sep. Red-tailed Hawk: 710 passed over I-84 overlook near Port Jervis 27 Oct. Rough-legged Hawk: three DUTC 11 Nov, one 14 Nov, two DUTC 22 Nov, four MPHWH. Golden Eagle: imm over Pocantico 27 Oct (SL). Am. Kestrel: seems a little scarce in DUTC, ten reported in Nov, one caught a titmouse in Rhinebeck. Merlin: one feeding on sparrows and House Finch in Poughkeepsie. Peregrine Falcon: record total at MPHWH, one Cornwall Bay 14 Oct, one imm 11 Oct (EP, OW), two within an hour early Oct (SS). Ruffed Grouse: very few noted. Wild Turkey: continues to increase in most areas. Virginia Rail: one Salt Point 17-18 Oct. Com. Moorhen: one Rye 1 Nov, very uncommon (SL), one Tamarack 20 Oct, eight Bashakill 16 Sep. Am. Coot: very low numbers continue WEST, three Terrytown 12 Nov, seven Croton Res 25 Nov. six Wappingers L 7 Nov, max seven L Carmel Nov. Killdeer: 27 Ardsley 5 Sep, more than normal, 55 Warren Sod Farm 11 Sep (EMBC), 50 in cornfield Verbank 24 Oct. Greater Yellowlegs: five L Oniad 23 Oct, two Verbank 24 Oct, three L Carmel 26 Oct, one Piermont Pier 7 Nov. Lesser Yellowlegs: three L Oniad 3-13 Oct. **Wood Sandpiper:** *intro*. Solitary Sandpiper: one Dover Plains 21 Sep. Willet: two Roosevelt Cove, Hyde Park 24 Oct (DH), fourth DUTC record. Spotted Sandpiper: one L Oniad 3-13 Oct (BM). Upland Sandpiper: peaked to 19 Warren Sod Farms 5 Sep (OCAS). Red Knot: two Rye 4 Nov. Dunlin: five Rye 4 Nov (PDB). Buff-breasted Sandpiper: five Warren Sod Farms 8 Sep (JPT). Com. Snipe: four to five several days Salt Point Oct, one L Oniad 4 Oct, one Verbank 20 Oct, two 1 Nov, four on lawn 20 Sep SCCC, six 26 Sep (VF). American Woodcock: two central DUTC 1 Nov, flew over highway DUTC, one Beaver Dam 4 Nov. Laughing Gull: one Cornwall Bay 14 Oct, five Rye 1 Nov. Lesser Black-backed Gull: wintering individual returned to Rye mid Sep (SL). Forster's Tern: 31 on pilings Piermont Pier ROCK 7 Nov (ET).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: E. Screech-Owl: few noted DUTC. Great Horned Owl: calling several areas DUTC. Barred Owl: one Woodstock Rd 27-29 Sep (FG), one calling Verbank 28 Sep (BB). N. Saw-whet Owl: one found dead Fishkill 18 Nov, late. Com. Nighthawk: one over Mt Peter 29 Sep (EMBC), peak passage 200 over Bashakill 30 Aug (JPT). 25 DUTC 2 Sep. Red-headed Woodpecker: one Stony Kill 2 Oct, one Butler Sanctuary 8 Oct, one Pocantico 25 Oct, several others better than normal (SL), one Pleasant Valley 4 Nov. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: scarce WEST, one Warwarsing 4 Oct, one Bashakill 23 Sep, three DUTC mid Oct, one Vassar Campus 21 Nov. Pileated Woodpecker: good population most areas.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: one Vassar Farm 4 Sep (JMK). W. Kingbird: one Rye 3 Nov (SL), one Mt Peter 15 Oct (EMBC). Horned Lark: 12 Red Hook 7 Nov, hard to find till there is snow. Purple Martin: five over Pleasant Valley with swallows 5 Sep. Tree Swallow: 12 Tamarack 3 Oct, one 5 Oct. Red-breasted Nuthatch: good numbers continue through period, suspected breeding DUTC, good breeding season WEST. Brown Creeper: several throughout period DUTC, often missed due to quiet mouse-like way of feeding on tree trunks. Carolina Wren: continues to increase, comes to many feeders. Winter Wren: one Buttercup Sanctuary 20 Oct. Golden-crowned Kinglet: heavy migration through Oct into early Nov. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr WEST 8 Sep, DUTC mid Sep, good numbers through Oct. E. Bluebird: 12 Blue Hill SULL 23 Sep, many throughout period DUTC after a good breeding season with over 600 fledged from the Bluebird Trail, excellent numbers WEST. Veery: lingered DUTC until 20 Oct. Swainson's Thrush: one Stissing 30 Oct. Hermit Thrush: very scarce, one Pawling 21 Oct. Am. Pipit: moderate number farmlands mid Oct. Cedar Waxwings: wide spread feeding on abundant berry and seed crop. Loggerhead Shrike: one Campbell Hill ORAN 31 Aug (JPT).

VERIOS-WARBLED: White-eyed Vireo: one Vassar Farm 4 Sep, one Bash-Rambout Rd DUTC 27 Sep. Philadelphia Vireo: one Mt Peter 8 Oct, one Bashkill 1 Sep, one Rambout Rd 7 Sep, one Pleasant Valley. Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr early Oct and stayed through Nov.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: not very plentiful. Dickcissel: one Bedford 20 Oct. Am. Tree Sparrow: arr 27 Oct, fair numbers DUTC Nov. Chipping Sparrow: last WEST 31 Oct, one at feeder Moores Mills 6-9 Nov (HM). Vesper Sparrow: always scarce. one on a good sparrow day Croton Pt 21 Oct, one Dover Plains 4 Nov. Fox Sparrow: two at feeder WEST 11 Nov. two Wappingers Falls 19-23 Nov. Lincoln Sparrow: usual one or two various locations WEST, one Stony Kill Gardens 20 Oct, one Pawling 8 Oct, several singles SULL, ORAN 28 Sep-13 Oct. Swamp Sparrow: six Verbank 9 Oct, few Stony Kill Gardens. White-throated Sparrow: good numbers most areas. White-crowned Sparrow: arr 20 Oct, low numbers WEST, three Stony Kill Gardens 10 Oct, fewer than normal, one Dover Plains 4 Nov. Dark-eyed Junco: after mid Oct, most abundant winter bird. Snow Bunting: 25 Rockland L. E. Meadowlark: two Somers 20 Oct, two Stony Kill 15 Oct. Rusty Blackbird: five Croton Pt 21 Oct, two Pleasant Valley 1 Nov, few DUTC Oct. Purple Finch: small migrant flocks, few eating ash seeds and coming to feeders DUTC 20 Oct-5 Nov, always a treat. Pine Siskin: no large flocks noted, few at same feeders. Evening Grosbeak: scattered small flocks, none seem to stay long in one place.

Moores Mills, RD 4, Pleasant Valley, New York 12569