

REGION 9 — HUDSON-DELAWARE REGION

JOHN P. ASKILDSEN

The weather this fall was very much the same it has been in other recent falls. September began with the "three H's" and remained that way up until the first front arrived on 10 Sep. A total of ten more fronts would arrive in the Region during the entire period. These fronts were not "classic" northwestern cold fronts that produce significant "fallout" days of migrants. Rather, they were of western origin, featuring west-northwest to west winds, not accompanied by cold temperatures and typically short-lived. In between these "duds" generally were periods of the "three H's" or, later on, cold, damp, cloudy weather. An example of this was 1-6 Oct, when the fall migration should have been at its apex, we endured six days of rain, fog, haze and clouds.

Precipitation levels were normal for September and way below for normal for October and November, leaving reservoir levels at an average of 45%. Northeast storms occurred on 17 and 29-31 Oct, the strongest storm since Ash Wednesday, 1962, and 10 Nov. None of these storms produced any storm related birds in Region 9.

Even though this report includes some very notable rarities, the general feeling among birders is that this fall was lackluster. There were average numbers of shorebirds. Ducks, raptors and passerines were with few exceptions low in numbers. A total of 242 species of birds were reported this fall.

Northern Gannet once again appeared in western Long Island Sound, when 3 were observed off Rye on 29 Oct and a high of 14 were noted on 28 Nov (TWB). There were 16 reports of **Black Vulture** for the Region. This number of records is obtained almost every season in Region 9. It is clear now that Black Vulture has established itself west of the Hudson and is making inroads east of it. Will someone please find a nest? Bald Eagle reports were too numerous to list, with over 80 individuals reported. Peak counts at the hawkwatches were just ones and twos, but these were obtained on several dates, and three to four reported all period from Neversink and Rondout Reservoirs. There were 18 reports of Golden Eagle, singles only at the hawkwatches, and others were reported from all over the Region. Forster's Tern appeared in numbers off of Rye for the third year in a row and remained through the period. Previously, they were unheard of in the western end of the sound.

Common Raven continues to increase in the northern sections of Region 9 and appeared in unprecedented numbers in SULL and DUTC counties.

Both cuckoos were very scarce this period. American Crow roosts activated again late this fall in Harrison, Nanuet, Poughkeepsie and Middletown, with the later roost at 6,000 and rising! Carolina Wren was reported in record high numbers from all counties of the Region. Eastern Bluebird, Gray-cheeked Thrush and Swainson's Thrush were well reported in the Region. Also numerous this season, many American Robin, Gray Catbird and Brown Thrasher lingered through end of period. Cedar Waxwing was present in high numbers through Nov. There were 26 species of warblers reported.

Adam Martin watched a **Wood Stork** fly past the Mt Peter hawkwatch several times on 27 Oct, and finally disappear in the area of Greenwood Lake, never to be refound. It was a first record for ORAN. Only one visitor at the Hook Mt Hawkwatch was lucky enough to see a dark morph **Swainson's Hawk** in the swirling masses of Broad-winged Hawk on 12 Sep (PB!). Certainly a stellar find was a female **Black-backed Woodpecker** observed at length, sitting, in flight and heard calling at the Harcourt Sanctuary in New Paltz on 9 Nov (AB!). Tundra Swan, Eurasian Wigeon, dark morph Broad-winged Hawk, Snowy Owl and Blue Grosbeak also added spice to the season, and other rare but regular migrants included in this report are: Red-necked Grebe, Iceland Gull, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Wilson's Phalarope, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Caspian Tern, Long-eared Owl, Kentucky Warbler, Dickcissel, and Common Redpoll.

Contributors: John P. Askildsen, Bedford Audubon Society, Alan Bendiner, Paul Bernarth, Frank Bonnano, Joe & Diane Bradley, Lysle Brinker, Thomas W. Burke, Barbara Butler, Judith Cinquina, Joe Cullen, Jeff Daley, Peter Dervin, Edgar A. Mearns Club, Andrew Farnsworth, Dot Fleury, Saul Frank, Walter Friton, Valerie Freer, Padraic French, Roger Frost, Florence Germond, Andrew Guthrie, Highlands Audubon Society, Judith Huff, Charles Hunter, Harold Hyatt, Carol Jack, Alice Jones, Phyllis Jones, Jim & Mary Key, Clifford Krantz, Robert J. Kurtz, Helen Manson, Adam Martin, Ken McDermott, Doris Metraux, Thomas H. Meyer, Barbara Michelin, Richard Nelson, Dan & Norma Niven, Russ O'Malley, Drew Panko, Gerhard Patsch, Jan Peterson, Eleanor Pink, David Quentin, Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club, Scott Rea, Jim Rod, Joseph Scordato, Jed Silbersher, Seldon Spencer, Herb Stein, Paul Steineck, Sullivan County Audubon Society, John P. Tramontano, Ed Treacy, Henry Turner, Marion Van Wagner, Mary Yegella, John Yrizzary.

Abbreviations: BASH - Bashakill Marsh; BSHW - Butler Sanctuary Hawkwatch; CIMS - Constitution Island Marsh Sanctuary, PUTN; CB - Cornwall Bay; CPt - Croton Point; HMHW - Hook Mtn Hawkwatch; MC - Marshlands Conservancy, Rye; MPt - Milton Point, Rye; MPHWS - Mt. Peter Hawkwatch; NPSP - Norrie Point State Park, DUTC; PP - Playland Park, Rye; RSPP - Rockefeller State Park Preserve, WEST; RLSP - Rockland Lake State Park; RN - Rye Nature Center; SKEC - Stony Kill Environmental Center, DUTC; WSF - Warren Sod Farm, ORAN.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: arr MC 1 Oct, five Ashokan Res 2 Nov(SS), five reports Hudson R between CPt and CB in Nov. Red-throated Loon: arr CB 2 Oct, one CPt 19 Nov (JS), eight MPt 28 Nov (TWP). Pied-billed Grebe: five BASH 9 Sep, five Amawalk Res 11 Nov, eight RLSP 26 Oct (FB), many reports, remained common through period. Horned Grebe: one found dead PP 21 Sep, five Kensico Res 11 Nov. Red-necked Grebe: one NPSP 14 Nov (MVW, EP, OW), one MPt 28 Nov (TWB). **N. Gannet:** *intro*. Great Cormorant: four PP 9 Oct. Double-crested Cormorant: 50 SKEC 9 Oct, 15+ Dennings Pt 15 Sep, 30 Piermont Pier 26 Oct. Am. Bittern: one Wallkill, no date, one MC 21 Sep-27 Oct (LB, TWB). Great Blue Heron: 33 reported from DUTC in Sep and 26 from BSHW this fall. Great Egret: 14 BASH 29 Aug, two CIMS through mid Nov (JR). Snowy Egret: two PP 10 Nov. Cattle Egret: one Crugers 2 Sep, one Upper Kay's Pd 7 Sep (AJ), one MC 2 Sep, one PP 20 Sep (TWB). Green-backed Heron: two Fishkill-Beacon 12 Oct. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: one MC 14 Aug. **Wood Stork:** *intro*. Tundra Swan: one Kensico Res WEST 14 Nov (DQ). Mute Swan: 150 Dennings Pt 15 Sep, 140 WEST res 11 Nov. Snow Goose: one blue morph 24 Oct-30 Nov, 60 SKEC 9 Oct, 35 Vassar Farm 19 Oct, 461 BSHW through fall. Brant: six PP 23 Oct, 90 MPt 7 Nov increased to 140 by 23 Nov (TWB). Canada Goose: 768 BSHW 12 Oct, 854 BSHW 13 Oct and season total there 6064. Wood Duck: 100s BASH 1 Sep, 511 CIMS 6 Oct (JR), two PP 24 Oct (TB). Green-winged Teal: 28 Bill Georges Farm 14 Nov, 72 MC 4 Oct, 200 CIMS during Oct (JR). **N. Pintail:** small numbers scattered DUTC, PUTN and WEST Oct and Nov. Blue-winged Teal: 50 BASH 1 Sep, down to 30 by 9 Sep, five MC 18 Nov, three Cross River Outlet after 11 Nov (JPA, DQ). **N. Shoveler:** uncommon, three RLSP 26 Oct, two MC 31 Oct. Gadwall: four Wappingers L 5 Sep, 155 RLSP 26 Oct (CH)! Eurasian Wigeon: drake Tarrytown L Res 16 Nov (DP) and later presumably the same bird just across Hudson R at Rockland L 20-30 Nov (JH); drake 6 1/2 Station Sanctuary ORAN 28 Nov (HS). **Am. Wigeon:** two Kensico 2 Oct; eight L Oneid 7 Nov; 28 WEST res 11 Nov, 75 on 30 Nov (FB). Canvasback: scarce, four PP 2 Nov, 30 by 28 Nov (TWB). Redhead: male Kensico Res 2-4 Oct (DQ), rare fall migrant. Ring-necked Duck: four Travers L 28 Oct, 41 Kensico 11 Nov, 230 Abels Pd 6 Nov, 10 RLSP 30 Nov, scarce. Greater Scaup: one

MC 22 Sep, one Kays L 7 Nov, one Kensico 11 Nov, numbers extremely low. Lesser Scaup: 18 PP 18 Oct, two Abels Pd 23 Oct, one Kays Pd 30 Oct. Oldsquaw: one PP 2 Nov, 20 NPSP 14 Nov (OTW, MVW, EP). Black Scoter: one PP 15 Oct, three MPt 2 Nov (TWB). Surf Scoter: one PP 15 Oct. White-winged Scoter: three PP, 18 CB 20 Oct (ET). Com. Goldeneye: scarce. Bufflehead: one PP 15 Oct, 15 Kensico Res 11 Nov, scarce. Hooded Merganser: 40 L Carmel 15 Nov, 15 WEST res 11 Nov, good totals. Com. Merganser: max 2000 West Branch Res 26 Nov (JS). Red-breasted Merganser: two PP 23 Oct. Ruddy Duck: arr MC 8 Oct, 200 L Carmel 15 Nov increased to 410 by 26 Nov (JS), 100 CPt 19 Nov, 56 Piermont Pier 26 Oct, very good numbers.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Season Hawkwatch totals and maxima:

Species	BSHW		HMHW		MPHW	
	max/date	total	max/date	total	max/date	total
Black Vulture						2
Turkey Vulture	78/20 Oct	867	15/ 8 Oct	76	18/13 Oct	41
Osprey	37/18 Sep	414	38/ 2 Oct	367	11/ 8 Oct	132
Bald Eagle	twos	22	singles	13	singles	8
Northern Harrier	10/18 Oct	77	7/19 Oct	71	7/12 Oct	34
Sharp-shinned Hawk	111/29 Sep	2136	232/14 Oct	2841	186/13 Oct	1424
Cooper's Hawk	37/ 4 Oct	308	23/30 Sep	142	28/13 Oct	104
Northern Goshawk	3/30 Oct	16	singles	6	4/13 Oct	12
Red-shouldered Hawk	16/30 Oct	81	22/14 Oct	76	10/21 Oct	48
Broad-winged Hawk	1642/13 Sep	5030	2260/12 Sep	4997	530/13 Sep	1532
Red-tailed Hawk	83/29 Oct	526	5/29 Oct	35	20/20 Oct	160
Rough-legged Hawk				1		
Golden Eagle	singles	7	singles	1	singles	2
American Kestrel	66/18 Sep	697	57/ 9 Sep	662	37/ 7 Oct	239
Merlin	7/ 8 Oct	77	10/ 9 Oct	59	8/13 Oct	27
Peregrine	5/ 9 Oct	23	4/1&8 Oct	32	2/ 9 Oct	7

Black Vulture: two Ellenville 6 Sep (VF), two MPHw 27 Sep and 13 Oct (AM), one over Route 343 in n DUTC 1 Sep (AJ), two of the four that summered near Garrison PUTN remained near CIMS until mid Sep (JR), four Bear Mt 15 Sep (GP), three along NYS Thruway Rock (JSil). Turkey Vulture: 53 staging at Monticello 26 Aug (D&CN). Osprey: max 77 PP 20 Sep (RJK, JPA), juv Muscoot Res WEST 11 Nov (JPA, DQ). Bald Eagle: *intro*; total of nine over Rye 20&21 Sep (TWB, RJK), three Bear Mt all season (WF, DM), four Shawanagunks all season (JPT), arr two Iona I 8 Nov (ET). N. Harrier: scarce. Sharp-shinned Hawk: continues decline of recent years. Broad-winged Hawk: inland ridges missed

bulk of migration; 1287 BSHW 12 Sep, 1275 HMHW 13 Sep, 529 Bear Mt 13 Sep, 16,000 PP and RN 20-21 Sep (AF, RJK, TWB, JPA, TM); dark morph BSHW 11 Oct (SR). **Swainson's Hawk:** *intro*. Red-tailed Hawk: large incursion of imm very late in the period. Rough-legged Hawk: one HMHW 21 Sep, extremely early, one Vassar Farm 27 Nov, a light Morph and a dark morph WSF 29 Nov-1 Dec respectively. Golden Eagle: *intro*; one Bear Mtn 24 Oct, arr two Stissing DUTC 17 Nov (JP). Peregrine: 70 reports; four BSHW 4 Oct, two Bear Mt in Oct, five Shawangunks through period. Ring-necked Pheasant: scarce. Wild Turkey: reported in lower numbers. N. Bobwhite: three NPSP 6 Nov. Clapper Rail: two MC 3 Nov. Virginia Rail: three MC 3 Nov. Sora: three 5 Oct, Com. Moorhen: one MC most of Sep, seven Dietricks Pd 1 Sep, one PP 11 Oct. Am. Coot: 60 Sylvan L 24 Nov, 47 WEST res mid Nov; good numbers. Black-bellied Plover: one WSF 8 Sep. Lesser Golden-Plover: 255 WSF 8 Sep (JPT), one MC 20 Sep (TWB). Am. Oystercatcher: two PP 1 Sep (TWB). Upland Sandpiper: 14 WSF 30 Aug (JPT). Ruddy Turnstone: four PP 16 Nov, Red Knot: one MC 2 Sep. W. Sandpiper: two MC all Sep. Baird's Sandpiper: one MC 28 Sep (TWB), five WSF 2 Sep (EAMBC). Pectoral Sandpiper: six WSF 12 Oct, one L Welch 3 Nov (WF, DM). Purple Sandpiper: three PP 2 Nov, 20 MPt 28 Nov. Dunlin: one MC 2 Sep, 140 MC 6 Nov, three L Welch 5 Nov, one on 9 Nov (WF, DM). Stilt Sandpiper: juv MC 16 Sep. Buff-breasted Sandpiper: four WSF 3 Sep (ET), max nine WSF 10 Sep (HAS). Com. Snipe: quite numerous at CIMS through end of period. Wilson's Phalarope: one MC 28 Sep (TWB). Laughing Gull: 200+ MC 5 Oct. Bonaparte's Gull: two NPSP 14-17 Nov, very rare on the Hudson, one PP 11 Oct, 25 MPt 28 Nov. Iceland Gull: first year bird MPH 31 Oct (ET). Lesser Black-backed Gull: arr PP 19 Sep (TWB), arr MPt 21 Sep for 6th year in a row (TWB, LB). Caspian Tern: one PP 14 Sep (TWB). Com. Tern: one PP 14 Sep. Forster's Tern: max 11 Rye 11 Oct and 12 on 31 Oct (TWB); *intro*. Least Tern: gone at Rye by end of Aug.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Snowy Owl: one Middletown 19 Nov (JPT), one Debucks sod farm ORAN 28 Nov (JY), one along railroad tracks in Newburgh late Nov (HH). Barred Owl: four reported DUTC Sep, three in Oct; retreating from many locations n WEST. Long-eared Owl: one Claryville, SULL 28 Aug (JW), has previously bred in the area. Short-eared Owl: one HMHW 8 Oct (PF). Com. Nighthawk: scarce in migration, only 34 from BSHW all season. Chimney Swift: scarce. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 40 BSHW to 3 Oct, 25 at Crugers 2 Sep (AJ), last date in DUTC 27 Sep. Red-headed Woodpecker: one BSHW early Oct, up to three NPSP 17-19 Nov (MOB), imm Harcourt Sanctuary, New Paltz, early Nov (SS), one Bear Mt early Oct. **Black-backed Woodpecker:** *intro*. Pileated Woodpecker: three Doodletown 21 Sep, BSHW entire period.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: one BSHW 3 Sep (SR).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one RN 1 Sep (TWB). Alder Flycatcher: 1 1 Sep (JPA, SR). Least Flycatcher: one PP 15 Sep. E. Phoebe: last BSHW 14 Oct, 9 Vassar Gardens 13 Oct, 1 RSPP 14 Nov (RN). Great Crested Flycatcher: one RN 21 Oct (TWB), record late. Horned Lark: several dozen WSF in Nov, 150+ Greggs Farm DUTC 14 Nov. Bank Swallow: Rye to mid Sep, small flock flew past BSHW 8 Oct (SR). Barn Swallow: to late Sep in Rye, 30 DUTC 10 Oct (CT), one 6 1/2 Station Sanctuary 19 Oct, "latest record in Hudson Valley by 12 days" (*fide* ET). Blue Jay: migration underway by 26 Sep at BSHW, max 800 on 4 Oct, and 8000 total for season (SR). Am. Crow: *intro*. Fish Crow: six PP 26 Oct, 1 PP 16 Nov, one Montgomery Place 19 Oct, 1 SKEC 19 Oct, definitely pushing inland. Com. Raven: *intro*. Red-breasted Nuthatch: very scarce. Winter Wren: one RN 27 Sep, five Doodletown 13 Oct (PD). Marsh Wren: two Dennings Pt 15 Oct, one MC 26 Nov. Am. Pipit: two MC 21 Sep, 100s WSF 12-19 Oct (EAMBC).

VIREOS-WARBLED: White-eyed Vireo: last MC 24 Sep, all on Long I Sound. Philadelphia Vireo: five reports DUTC and SULL in Sep. Red-eyed Vireo: good numbers SULL; one PP 23 Nov (DP), late. Yellow Warbler: four Pine Ridge DUTC 9 Oct, late. Cape May Warbler: two RN 2 & 22 Sep, one Vassar 24 Sep. Black-throated Green Warbler: notable incursion 27-28 Sep. N. Waterthrush: four PP 27 Oct. Kentucky Warbler: one Wagent's Pd Minetorn Rd 21 Sep (JC). Mourning Warbler: one RN 2 Sep (JPA).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Blue Grosbeak: one SKEC 25-27 Oct (MVW, mob), first for DUTC. Dickcissel: singles SUNY at Purchase mid Oct (PS), PP 23 Oct (TWB), SKEC 20 Oct (D&JB), Catskill Aqueduct, Yonkers late Nov (RF). Vesper Sparrow: four SKEC 20 Oct (ET), one PP 23 Oct, one Amenia 25 Oct. Savannah Sparrow: good numbers reported. Sharp-tailed Sparrow: four MC 12 Oct. Fox Sparrow: arr Tymor 23 Oct, one SKEC 24 Oct, one PP 13 Nov. Lincoln's Sparrow: five reports WEST and DUTC in Oct, very dark individual Vassar 10 Oct (MVW, EP). White-throated Sparrow: arr Rye 20 Sep, Monticello 29 Sep. White-crowned Sparrow: numerous reports; arr Bedford Hills 5 Sep (TM), late; 28 Nov WSF (JY). Snow Bunting: one HMHW 26-31 Sep (PF), one PP 31 Oct, three 17 Nov PP; scarce. Bobolink: scarce. E. Meadowlark: widespread after late Sep. Rusty Blackbird: one MC 30 Sep, 70 Poughkeepsie 29 Oct.

EXOTICS: Monk Parakeet: one MC 1 Sep (TWB).

CORRECTION: Vol. 41(4):286. Yellow-headed Blackbird: one MC 31 Aug, not 23 Aug.

202 Millertown Road, Bedford, New York 10506