

REGION 9 — HUDSON-DELAWARE

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The weather of the fall of 1993 actually was quite tame compared to what has been dealt out by Mother Nature in the last few seasons. Lower New York State was spared by Hurricane Emily in September when she changed course and moved out into the Atlantic. Even though nine cold fronts passed through the Region in September, some bringing substantial rains, we remained in a state of severe drought. A high of 93°F was reached on 3 Sep. This would be the only day that we would experience 90+° weather all fall. The average temperature of 61° for the month was on target. October ushered in colder temperatures and in some areas of the Region trace amounts of snow fell on 31 Oct. The average temperature was 48.7°F, which was 1.5° below normal. The eight cold fronts that passed with more significant amounts of precipitation lowered the drought index from severe to moderate. By the end of November, the handwriting was on the wall in terms of what was to come this winter. We went from 76°F on 15 Nov to a low of 10° on 26 Nov. Old Man Winter was knocking on our front door.

The big question this fall was, were we going to receive the very long awaited finch flight? The answer was yes and no. For Pine Siskin and Evening Grosbeak, what started with a trickle on 10 and 6 Oct respectively, turned into a major movement by Nov. Purple Finch made an excellent showing at feeders throughout the Region, peaking in early

Nov, but by the month's end they had almost completely disappeared. Exciting was a report of Pine Grosbeak. We hoped this was a sign of what was to come. Finally, Common Redpoll appeared widely in November. One flock of Red Crossbill was seen. American Goldfinch showed signs of a major movement, as their numbers changed in concert with Pine Siskin numbers. Finally, rounding out the list of winter finches found in the Region was a persistent White-winged Crossbill.

Four Lesser Black-backed Gull were reported from the Region this fall, three of which are returns to locations where they wintered in previous years. The Golden Eagle that winter at Stissing Mountain DUTC arrived on time this fall in early November.

Common Raven southward range expansion continues. This fall three passed the Hook Mt. Hawk Watch in ROCK simultaneously and two passed the Butler Hawk watch in n WEST in Sep and Nov. Further north, two frequented Mt. Peter hawk watch all fall and up to 16 were seen regularly at Claryville SULL, where they are resident. This fall produced a spectacular White-crowned Sparrow flight in the Region. Reports of 10 to 25 a day were not uncommon during the species' peak migration period. One report of over 100 from 16 Oct at SUNY at Purchase WEST was most impressive!

Although the list of great rarities provides no new Regional records, several species have only a few prior records. The male *Tufted Duck* arrived at Playland Lake in Rye on 12 Nov to spend its third consecutive winter there amongst the thousands of scaup that had already arrived on the lake. *Black Vulture* was reported from the usual locations. An *American Avocet* was seen briefly at Marshland Conservancy in Rye on 4 Sep. This provided Marshlands Conservancy with its first record and Region 9 with its fourth record for the species. Another *Rufous Hummingbird* was reported from an ULST feeder, where it was photographed extensively, including a fanned-tailed portrait to rule out Allen's Hummingbird. A *Clay-colored Sparrow* was reported from a DUTC feeder on 14 Nov. The northeast experienced an invasion of *Bullock's* race of Northern *Oriole*, beginning late this fall. Region 9 was not left out. One was found in s WEST on 1 Nov (PL). When the party returned to look for the Bullock's race the next day, a Baltimore race Northern Oriole was present in the same area (PL&SF). Only slightly less unexpected were two Hudsonian Godwit found on the Delaware R for a first SULL county record on 25 Oct. Both Black Tern and a most cooperative Sedge Wren were found in WEST. Other species of note this

season are Eurasian Wigeon, Snowy Owl, Caspian Tern Northern Shrike and Dickcissel.

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Abbreviations: BSHW - Butler Sanctuary Hawk Watch, WEST; DTR - Doodletown Road, ROCK; EGR - Edith G. Read Sanctuary, Rye; HMHW - Hook Mountain Hawk Watch, ROCK; MC - Marshlands Conservancy, Rye, WEST; MPHWS - Mt Peter Hawk Watch, ORAN; PL - Playland Lake and offshore areas, Rye, WEST.

Fall Reports: **Com. Loon:** twelve MC 10 Oct. **Red-throated Loon:** one MC 30 Oct. **Great Cormorant:** arr 26 Oct PL; four Hudson R WEST 8 Nov, 20 by month's end. **Am. Bittern:** two reports DUTC 1 and 23 Oct. **Great Egret:** max 25 MC 11 Sep. **Snowy Egret:** max 160 MC 11 Sep, many more than usual. **Little Blue Heron:** one MC 9-26 Sep; imm PL 16 Oct. **Tricolored Heron:** one Hudson R ULST 21 Aug. **Green Heron:** last DUTC 27 Oct. **Brant:** 560 10 Oct MC. **Green-winged Teal:** over 30 central WEST by late Nov. **Eurasian Wigeon:** male Rockland L 13 Oct (IB). **N. Shoveler:** three WEST 6 Nov. **Canvasback:** arr PL 26 Oct. **Redhead:** arr PL 25 Oct. **Tufted Duck:** intro (TWB). **Greater Scaup:** 4,000 PL by 23 Nov. **Black Scoter:** two PL 11 Oct. **White-winged Scoter:** one PL 26 Oct.

Hawk watch totals:

	MPHW	BSHW	HMHW
Black Vulture	4		
Turkey Vulture	112	308	172
Osprey	182	283	244
Bald Eagle	3	26	23
N. Harrier	62	105	141
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1268	1914	2426
Cooper's Hawk	75	218	52
N. Goshawk	3	15	16
Red-shouldered Hawk	48	51	38
Broad-winged Hawk	2812	7602	2847
Red-tailed Hawk	245	392	36

Rough-legged Hawk		2	
Golden Eagle	9	5	2
Am. Kestrel	351	489	597
Merlin	7	19	53
Peregrine Falcon	3	21	14
TOTAL	5277	11508	6666

Black Vulture: one DUTC 9 Oct (JB); one frequented MPH area all fall (JC); one Stony Pt ROCK 22 Nov (LHVBL). **Clapper Rail:** max four MC all season. **Virginia Rail:** one MC all season; one n DUTC 29 Nov. **Sora:** four MC in Oct. **Black-bellied Plover:** max 45 MC 27 Oct. **Am. Golden-Plover:** low numbers MC through 8 Oct; eight Sullivan County Airport 19 Sep; seven Warren Sod Farm ORAN 16 Sep. **Killdeer:** 194 Warren Sod Farm ORAN 2 Sep; 175 Merion Sod Farm ORAN 16 Sep. **Am. Oystercatcher:** MC three 5-7 Sep. **Am. Avocet:** intro (D&TF!, NYSARC). **Hudsonian Godwit:** intro (KS). **Semipalmated Sandpiper:** 40 MC 7 Sep. **W. Sandpiper:** one-three MC all Sep. **White-rumped Sandpiper:** two MC 11 Sep, 1 MC 16 Oct. **Least Sandpiper:** 20 MC 7 Sep. **Stilt Sandpiper:** imm MC 6-7 Sep, ad MC 9 Sep. **Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** one Warren Sod Farm 2 Sep (JPT). **Laughing Gull:** last coastal WEST 12 Nov. **Bonaparte's Gull:** two Hudson R n DUTC 3 Nov. **Glaucous Gull:** one Woodbourne SULL 30 Nov (VF). **Lesser Black-backed Gull:** arr Rye 26 Sep, second arr Rye 11 Oct; one Kensico Res WEST 25 Sep, 4 Nov, no history there for species; one ROCK 3 Nov. **Caspian Tern:** two 8 Oct MC (TWB). **Com. Tern:** 50 PL 25 Sep. **Forster's Tern:** 38 MC 21 Sep. **Black Tern:** four Kensico Res White Plains 3 Sep (MU), seldom reported.

Snowy Owl: one Tappan Zee Bridge ROCK 3 Nov; one Kingston-Rhinecliff Bridge 20 Nov; one DUTC 8-23 Nov. **Long-eared Owl:** one DUTC 21 Nov. **Rufous Hummingbird:** ad female at feeder Saugerties ULST 24 Sep-16 Oct (Arnette Heidcamp!, JPA, AG, ph, NYSARC). **Red-headed Woodpecker:** one BSHW 25 Sep.

E. Kingbird: one DUTC 16 Oct, late. **Tree Swallow:** last n WEST 14 Nov. **Com. Raven:** intro. **Sedge Wren:** one MC 24 Sep (TWB, AB), sang for fifteen minutes atop *Spartina alterniflora*. **N. Shrike:** one SULL 27 Nov (BM).

White-eyed Vireo: one n DUTC 22 Sep. **Philadelphia Vireo:** one banded SULL 18 Sep (VF). **Mourning Warbler:** two n WEST 4 Sep. **Hooded Warbler:** two still singing DTR 6 Sep (EDT); two BSHW 5 Sep. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** female at feeder DUTC 25 Nov, late. **Dickcissel:** one WEST 24 Sep (LS); one DUTC 13 Oct. **Am. Tree Sparrow:** arr 2 Nov.

Clay-colored Sparrow: intro (ROM). **Vesper Sparrow:** four individuals DUTC in Oct; two MC late Oct. **White-crowned Sparrow: intro.** **Lapland Longspur:** five MC 28 Oct, first record there; one PL 25 Nov. **N. Oriole: intro.** **Pine Grosbeak:** four DUTC 17 Oct. **Purple Finch: intro.** **Red Crossbill:** 22 Ashokan Res ULST 15 Nov. **White-winged Crossbill:** imm male at feeder PUTN after 28 Nov (Drew Gress). **Com. Redpoll:** arr n WEST 2 Nov; max 50 DUTC 29 Nov. **Pine Siskin: intro.** **Evening Grosbeak: intro.**

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