

REGION 9 — HUDSON-DELAWARE

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Weather during the fall 1994 could best be summed up as unremarkable. Temperatures were about average. October was a bit on the dry side, November brought a nor'easter on the first. The heavy rains associated with this coastal storm brought seasonal rainfall measurements up to about average. Hurricane Gordon, which threatened the Long Island Sound area from 18-20 Nov, never really materialized into anything more than gusty winds and had little effect on the birds. In fact, there were no weather events, even the nor'easter, that hindered migration or deposited any unusual rarities in the Region.

Bird reports reflected good numbers of the expected migrants, plus an impressive number of reports of the rare, but expected western vagrant species familiar in the northeast. *Black Vulture* reports continue to be on the increase in the Region. A hawk watch study conducted at the Mohonk Preserve ULST tallied numerous Black Vultures. So many were seen moving north rather than south though, that the actual number of migrants counted was pared way down. A major Yellow-rumped Warbler migration push was noted on 11 Oct, when reports from different stations describing "flocks of hundreds" flying overhead in the early morning hours. However, this year's winter finch flight consisted of a single Common Redpoll, a single Pine Siskin and scattered Evening Grosbeak, which didn't persist. Purple Finch was scarce. The later two species nest in the Region.

As previously stated, this fall's list of rarities is well rounded and includes reports of multiple sightings of hard to find vagrants. Unfortunately, no "mega ticks" were reported. Three Northern Gannet were undoubtedly directly related to the distant but approaching Hurricane Gordon. An *American White Pelican* departed as quickly as it came. Quite a find was an adult blue-morph *Ross's Goose*, which may well be a first State record of this very rare color morph. Reports of a whopping 35 Black Vulture were received this fall, primarily from ULST, ORAN and ROCK. All counties in the Region did report sightings though. *Mississippi Kite* and *Swainson's Hawk* delighted raptor enumerators at local hawk watches. A *Sandhill Crane* kept birding ranks entertained in Sep. Notable passerines included Boreal Chickadee, Northern Shrike, *Blue Grosbeak*. Clay-colored Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, and *Harris's Sparrow*.

This is my last Regional Report. I want to thank everyone who contributed to the Region 9 report over the past year. The new Region 9 Editor is Michael Usai, 70 Virginia Road Apt. 18A, North White Plains, New York 10603.

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Abbreviations: BSHW - Butler Sanctuary Hawk Watch, Bedford, WEST; DTR - Doodletown Road, ROCK; EGR - Edith G. Read Preserve, Rye; HMHW - Hook Mt. Hawk Watch, ROCK; HR - Hudson River; MC - Marshlands Conservancy, Rye; MOHW - Mohonk Hawk Watch, ORAN; MPHWH - Mt. Peter Hawk Watch, ORAN.

Fall Reports: **Com. Loon:** max 30 Ashokan Res late Oct. **Red-necked Grebe:** two HR Dutc 9 Nov. **N. Gannet:** three Long Island Sound off Rye 19 Nov. **Am. White Pelican:** one Milton Harbor MC 20 Sep (KF). **Great Cormorant:** arr 18 Sep EGR. **Am. Bittern:** one HR Dutc 25 Sep. **Little Blue Heron:** one MC during Sep. **Great Egret:** max 42 MC 16 Sep. **Snowy Egret:** 20 MC 16 Sep. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** 27 EGR 30 Oct. **Ross's Goose:** blue morph Round Pd Amenia Dutc 12-13 Nov (Dot Fleury, Mary Yegella, Marion Van Wagner, Barbara Butler, Helen Manson, mob, NYSARC). **Eurasian Wigeon:** arr Rockland L SP 29 Oct (Joe Scordato, ET). **Com. Merganser:** ad with y SULL 31 Aug.

Hawk Watch Totals:	MPHWH	BSHW	HMHW	MOHW
Black Vulture	4	2	4	13
Turkey Vulture	72	223	90	75
Osprey	127	234	253	54
Bald Eagle	11	17	31	5
Northern Harrier	55	99	140	49
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1078	1383	2621	491
Cooper's Hawk	134	198	141	28
Northern Goshawk	1	7	8	4
Red-shouldered Hawk	37	28	36	35
Broad-winged Hawk	3381	10377	5811	308
Red-tailed Hawk	577	259	23	242
Rough-legged Hawk	0	1	0	0
Golden Eagle	12	4	2	2
American Kestrel	321	461	433	139
Merlin	15	22	27	3
Peregrine	7	7	12	7
Unidentified & rarities	100	33	32	138
Total	5932	13355	9664	1593

Black Vulture: three Dutc in Sep; max five n ROCK all season; one SULL 3 Oct; three near HR ULST in Oct. **Mississippi Kite:** HMHW 24 Sep (Vince

Plogar, Paddy French). *Swainson's Hawk*: ad low and directly overhead BSHW 12 Sep (Jackie Speicher, Thomas Meyer), second record there. *Rough-legged Hawk*: arr dark morph SULL 12 Oct; dark morph w ORAN 12 Nov. *Golden Eagle*: imm Pine Plains Dutc 6 Sep; imm SULL 21 Oct; wintering pair arr Stissing Mt Dutc 16 Oct. *Clapper Rail*: one MC through late Sep. *Virginia Rail*: arr MC early Oct. *Sora*: arr 10 Oct MC. *Sandhill Crane*: imm in a roadside field 1-9 Sep Forestburgh SULL (Phyllis Jones), very approachable as often typical of that age. *Am. Golden-Plover*: two MC 17 Sep; three-five Ashokan Res Dutc mid Sep; 26 w ORAN 1 Nov, late. *W. Sandpiper*: one MC Oct; one Ashokan Res mid Oct. *White-rumped Sandpiper*: One MC 1-5 Sep. *Baird's Sandpiper*: three Ashokan Res ULST 2 Nov (Mark DeDea), late. *Stilt Sandpiper*: max two MC 13 Sep-10 Oct. *Lesser Black-backed Gull*: two annually wintering adults arr Rye early Sep; third year bird Rye 25 Sep (TB). *Caspian Tern*: ad MC 4 Sep (TB). *Black Tern*: one EGR 18 Sep (AG).

Long-eared Owl: one Dutc 1-21 Oct. *Short-eared Owl*: one central WEST 30 Nov (MU). *Red-headed Woodpecker*: one Blue Chip Farms ULST all season; imm DTR through Nov; one s WEST 7 Oct. *Yellow-bellied Sapsucker*: present in higher than usual numbers.

Com. Raven: 34 n SULL 14 Nov around road-killed deer; reported from as far south as s ROCK, n WEST. *Boreal Chickadee*: returned to Patterson PUTN feeder 30 Nov (Hunter Pollack), where present last winter through early spring. (*Bicknell's*) *Gray-cheeked Thrush*: two atop Slide Mt ULST 25 Sept (Walter Ellison, Chris Rimmer). *N. Shrike*: near Round Pd Amenia Dutc 15 Nov (Chet Vincent).

Philadelphia Vireo: scattered reports in Sep. *Mourning Warbler*: one Dutc 21 Sep.

Blue Grosbeak: one Flint P Larchmont WEST 28 Sep (KF). *Clay-colored Sparrow*: one Wallkill Valley NWR ORAN 27 Oct (SA); one EGR 6 Nov (TB). *Vesper Sparrow*: well represented in early Oct throughout Region. *Lark Sparrow*: ad MPH 7 Oct (Chris Vogel, NYSARC), remained only an hour before moving along with the flock of birds with which it was associated. *Grasshopper Sparrow*: Kensico Res WEST 12 Sep and 11 Oct (MU), increasingly uncommon migrant in Region. *Sharp-tailed Sparrow*: two-five individuals MC all season. *Harris's Sparrow*: ad at feeder Hurleyville SULL 26-30 Oct (Kris Conklin, Valerie Freer, mob, NYSARC); imm Wallkill Valley NWR ORAN 27 Oct (Scott Angus, NYSARC). *Lapland Longspur*: six w ORAN 12 Nov (JY, GT). *Purple Finch*: scarce. *Com. Redpoll*: one at feeder Dutc 7-12 Nov (J. Vesley, Eleanor Pink). *Pine Siskin*: one SULL 19 Oct. *Evening Grosbeak*: singles widespread Sep-Oct.

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