

REGION 9 — HUDSON-DELAWARE

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The heat and dry weather abated a little in September, but the Region remained in a state of severe drought. The New York City reservoirs were only at 51.1% of capacity as opposed to the normal 75%. The very low reservoirs, however, produced good shorebird habitat on many of them. In October we went from famine to feast. Due to the

remains of Hurricane Opal and heavy rains associated with a couple of very powerful cold fronts, this October was the wettest ever recorded in the 101 years, with the Hudson Valley also being the wettest Region in New York State. Slide Mountain, Ulster, recorded 8.30 inches of rain, which is 255% above normal for October. Temperatures in October were higher than normal for this Region. The wet trend continued in November, however temperatures averaged 4°F cooler than normal. A powerful cold front on the 11th and 12th, followed by a strong nor'easter a few days later, contributed to the above normal precipitation. By the end of November the New York City reservoirs had reached 96% of normal and this fall became one of the wettest falls in recent memory.

The fall migration was not quite as interesting as the weather. However, the raptor migration through the Region was very good this year. Numbers of many species were up at the local watches. Both eagles had a good showing as did the Red-tailed Hawk and Northern Goshawk. The bulk of the Broad-winged Hawk went through between 15 and 18 September, with impressive single day totals recorded at the watches. Hook Mountain also recorded **Short-eared Owl** migrating past on two occasions. The newly capped Croton Point Park landfill, West, proved to be a hot spot for migrant passerines this fall. The grasses and other herbaceous growth provided plenty of food for hundreds of Song, Swamp and Savannah sparrows, many Yellow-rumped and Palm warblers, Horned Lark, and American Pipit. **Sedge Wren** and **Grasshopper Sparrow** were there on 7 November. **Vesper Sparrow** was there on several occasions. On 10 November a light morph Rough-legged Hawk was observed hunting over the landfill.

In terms of rarities, there were few vagrants reported. Northern Shrike tops the list by virtue of its numbers in our Region this fall. By the end of the season there were 19 different individuals reported from all the counties in this Region, too numerous to list separately. This number is particularly impressive considering the invasion only began in November. An **EARED GREBE**, the Region's first, was found at the Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary in Rye, Westchester on 30 Sep (Gail Benson, Tom Burke). The grebe was last seen there on 8 Oct. Ulster County logged its first record of Eurasian Wigeon on 7 Oct at the Esopus Meadows thanks to a Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club field trip. An immature male **King Eider** was seen briefly at the Edith G. Read

Wildlife Sanctuary on 23 Nov (TB). Six **AMERICAN AVOCET** were discovered on a farm pond in Bullville, Orange on 11 Sep (Ed Treacy). The birds were not relocated thereafter. **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** was found on the turf farms in Orange and at the Amawalk Reservoir in Somers, Westchester. Two **BOHEMIAN WAXWING** were at the Frost Valley Conference Center in Frost Valley, Ulster on 17 November, but have not been seen since. The following week a flock of **Pine Grosbeak** visited the same site. A species which probably migrates through the Region more than is reported, **Connecticut Warbler**, was banded in Ulster County on 22 Sep (Seldon Spencer), providing the only report of that warbler this fall. On 17 Oct a female **Blue Grosbeak** was found at Marshlands Conservancy, Rye, WEST (TB). Three **Red Crossbill** were heard flying over Brewster, PUTN on 21 Nov.

Other highlights included: Northern Gannet, Stilt Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Black Skimmer, Dickcissel, Lapland Longspur

Abbreviations: MC-Marshlands Conservancy, EGR-Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, HHW-Hammerslag Hawk Watch, HNHW-Hook Mountain Hawk Watch, MPHW-Mount Peter Hawk Watch, PITF-Pine Island Turf Farm, Kres-Kensico Reservoir, Ash-Ashokan Reservoir, RTWBC-Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club

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Fall Report: **Horned Grebe:** arr one EGR 12 Nov. **Eared Grebe:** intro: **Great Cormorant:** arr one Piermont Pier, Rock 7 Sept (BK); two MC 1 Oct; one KRes thru Nov. **Double-crested Cormorant:** small numbers into late Nov. **American Bittern:** one MC 23 Oct (TB). **Great Egret:** two Salt Point, Dutch 7 Oct (JD). **Snowy Egret:** four EGR 31 Oct, last. **Green Heron:** one MC 3 Oct, last. **Snow Goose:** scattered from mid-Oct. **Brant:** arr two EGR 21 Oct; one Sharpe Reservation, Dutch 8 Nov (RTWBC). **Northern Pintail:** one MC 3 Oct. **Gadwall:** arr two EGR 17 Nov, few reports. **Eurasian Wigeon:** one Esopus Meadows, Ulster 7 Oct (RTWBC), first Ulster record; also seen at Lighthouse Point, Ulster; two males EGR 28 Nov. **Ring-necked Duck:** scattered from early Oct. **Greater Scaup:** arr three EGR 30 Sept; max 2000 EGR 18 Nov. **Lesser**

Scaup: arr six EGR 21 Oct; max 200 EGR 18 Nov. **Oldsquaw:** arr two EGR 21 Oct. **Black Scoter:** 200 Neversink Res, Sull 30 Oct; four EGR 21 Oct. **Surf Scoter:** two EGR 11, 14 Nov. **White-winged Scoter:** two EGR 11, 13 Nov. **Common Merganser:** 2500 West Branch Res, Put 28 Nov - early Dec.

Bald Eagle: eight HWHH 18 Sept; six HHW 15 Sept, good year. **Broad-winged Hawk:** 5000 HHW 15 Sept; 3541 HMHW 18 Sept. **Rough-legged Hawk:** Croton Pt Landfill 10 Nov; Greig's Farm, Dutch 3 Nov (RTWBC); scattered other reports. **Golden Eagle:** excellent year at local watches; total 19 HHW; returned to Thompson Pond, Dutch in Nov.

HawkWatch Results:	MPHW	HMHW	HHW
Black Vulture	0	0	1
Turkey Vulture	90	86	850
Osprey	117	234	469
Bald Eagle	11	48	25
N. Harrier	61	144	122
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1667	2794	3030
Cooper's Hawk	150	126	395
N. Goshawk	3	16	17
Red-shouldered Hawk	109	183	169
Broad-winged Hawk	4723	8441	10357
Red-tailed Hawk	828	381*	1019
Rough-legged Hawk	0	0	0
Golden Eagle	4	7	19
Am. Kestrel	311	460	1127
Merlin	15	4	47
Peregrine Falcon	8	11	11
Unid eagle	0	1	0
Unid raptor	89	110	0
Total	8142	13095	17658

MPHW - Mount Peter (Judith Cinquina, John Tramontano)

HMHW - Hook Mountain (Frank Bonanno)

HHW - Hammerslag Hawkwatch (Mike Newhouse)

*-including one "Kriders" Red-tailed Hawk

Clapper Rail: one MC 2 Sept, last. **Virginia Rail:** one KRes 4 Oct,

perched in a Beech tree on a rock outcropping approx 10' from the water (MU); thru period MC. **Sora**: several. **Black-bellied Plover**: 13 MC 17 Oct, high. **American Golden-Plover**: arr one Pine Island Turf Farm, Orange 9 Sept; 20 PITF 15 Sept (ET). **Semipalmated Plover**: nine MC 16-23 Sept, high; one 3 Oct, last. **American Avocet**: six Bullville, ORAN 11 Sep (ET). **Lesser Yellowlegs**: one MC 18 Sept, last. **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: two MC 3 Oct, last. **Western Sandpiper**: one Ash 20 Nov, late; up to two MC 3 Sept. **Least Sandpiper**: two Amawalk Res 23 Sept, last. **Baird's Sandpiper**: several Ash 15 Sept (SC). **Pectoral Sandpiper**: max four MC 17 Oct; one remained thru. **Purple Sandpiper**: arr two EGR 10 Nov; up to 80 EGR 23 Nov. Dunlin: arr MC 3 Oct, then thru. **Stilt Sandpiper**: one MC 2 Sept (TB). **Buff-breasted Sandpiper**: one PITF 9 Sept (ET); four there 14 Sept; two Amawalk Res 20 Sept (MU). **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: one EGR and one MP sporadically from mid-Sept. **Common Tern**: one EGR 4 Nov, last. **Forster's Tern**: max 11 EGR 4 Nov; thru. **Black Skimmer**: one EGR 4 Oct (TB).

Barred Owl: one MC 23 Nov thru. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: one Cold Spring, Putn 15 Sept.

Eastern Phoebe: last MC 23 Nov. **Tree Swallow**: last 28 Oct. **Barn Swallow**: last 17 Sept, very early departure. **Black-capped Chickadee**: 100+ flew past Hammerslag Hawk Watch on 1 Oct; high numbers, some flocks mixed with **Tufted Titmouse** (MU). **House Wren**: last Larchmont, West 18 Nov (TB), late. **Marsh Wren**: one Kres 19 Sept; two MC 23 Oct, last. **Veery**: last 17 Sept. **Swainson's Thrush**: one Dutch 6 Nov (J&MK), late. **Wood Thrush**: last 21 Oct. **American Pipit**: good numbers at Croton Landfill in Nov. **Northern Shrike**: *intro*.

Solitary Vireo: last 19 Nov Croton Landfill, late (TR,LS). **Philadelphia Vireo**: several scattered reports. **Red-eyed Vireo**: one Hook Mt. 7 Nov (FB), late date for Rockland. **Nashville Warbler**: last EGR 10 Nov. **Northern Parula**: last MC 16 Oct. **Cape May Warbler**: last EGR 1 Oct. **American Redstart**: last 15 Oct. **Ovenbird**: last MC 15 Sept. **Connecticut Warbler**: *intro*:

Summer Tanager: one Monroe, Orange 8 Sept. **Blue Grosbeak**: *intro*: **Dickcissel**: one Hurleyville mid-Nov. **Vesper Sparrow**: *intro*; one Kres 10 Oct. **Grasshopper Sparrow**: *intro*; one Kres 17 Oct. **Lincoln's Sparrow**: scattered reports; four MC 8 Oct. **Swamp Sparrow**: fallout Rye 8 Oct. **White-throated Sparrow**: fallout Rye 8 Oct. **White-crowned Sparrow**: scattered reports. **Lapland Longspur**: one Ash 6 Oct (SC): *Pine*

Grosbeak: intro. Purple Finch: scattered reports thru. Red Crossbill: intro. Pine Siskin: scattered reports, mainly from hawk watches.

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