

REGION 9 – HUDSON-DELAWARE

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September was slightly warmer than average with normal rainfall in the lower half of the Region. Liberty had just over 6" of rain for the month, mainly due to a 2" rainfall on the 25th. After that, there were drought conditions for the next two months. October was slightly cooler than normal and only about 1" of rain fell for the month; normally it is around 4" for most areas. November was just as dry, with 0.8–1.0" of rainfall. However, the month was much warmer than normal, with the average daily temperature for the month 2.5°F to 3.5° higher than normal. White Plains had 11 days at 60° or higher in November, and temperatures did not fall below freezing until the 12th.

The Region seemed to miss out on the many western strays that dominated the rare bird reports in the east this fall, except for one. The highlight of the season was an immature male **Rufous Hummingbird** that I found at Lenoir Nature Preserve in Yonkers, Westchester County, on 17 November. The bird remained into December and was studied, sketched and photographed by many people. Diagnostic photographs were obtained and a report will be submitted to NYSARC. This was a first for Westchester County but not for Region 9. New York State's first record for Rufous Hummingbird was from the Town of Chester, Orange County, 9 August 1993.

Most hawkwatches reported a slow fall season with the exception of Hook Mt., Rockland County. While the Chestnut Ridge Hawkwatch in Westchester County only managed 5351 Broad-winged Hawks for the year, Hook Mt. had over 10,000.

Della Wells found a basic-plumaged **American Avocet** at Piermont Pier the morning of 7 October. Many saw this first record for Rockland County. A report was submitted to NYSARC.

Snowy Owls made appearances in Kingston, Rhinebeck and Croton Point Park in November.

The Dutchess County Bluebird Trail monitors reported 901 Eastern Bluebirds and 403 Tree Swallows fledged from 361 boxes.

Two Connecticut Warblers were found, one in Doodletown 8 September on a Rockland Audubon Society field trip and one in Sterling Forest on 12 September.

Joe and Ellen O'Connell observed a spectacular blackbird migration at Lenoir Nature Preserve 11 November when more than 42,000 flew past, including 36,000 birds in one hour.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

CPP – Croton Pt P; CRHW – Chestnut Ridge Hawk Watch, Bedford; HM – Hook Mountain; LNP – Lenoir Nature Preserve; MC – Marshlands Conservancy; MPHWS – Mount Peter Hawk Watch; PP – Piermont Pier; SGNWR – Shawangunk Grasslands NWR (formerly Galeville Airport).

LOONS – DUCKS

Pied-billed Grebe: 8 Swan L 17 Oct.
Great Egret: 4 Bashakill 1 Sep; Bashakill 2 Oct; Wappingers L 27 Oct (BA, AM), late record.
Black Vulture: 18 Verbank thru Sep; 2 LNP 28 Oct, unusual this far south; 21 MPHWS 3 Oct; 23 MPHWS 10 Nov; many other reports from the other counties.
Snow Goose: arr Round Pd 2 Oct; 19 Round Pd 11 Oct; 15 Thompson Pd 26 Oct.
Brant: Norrie Pt 3 Oct; 50 Pawling 22 Oct.
Wood Duck: 40 Hillside L DUTC 12 Sep; 1906 Bashakill 27 Sep (RD); 1679 Bashakill 4 Oct (VF); 33 Amenia 11 Oct.
Green-winged Teal: 200 Tallman Marsh 30 Sep.
Ring-necked Duck: 50 Abels Pd, DUTC 10 Oct; 100 Abels Pd 24 Oct; 150 Abels Pd 28 Oct; 80 Thompson Pd 26 Oct; 34 L Walton DUTC 28 Oct; 10 Sylvan L 29-30 Oct.
Surf Scoter: 120 Neversink Res 18 Nov (VF).
Black Scoter: 35 Quaker L Pawling 28 Oct (CP).

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: 12 HM 15 Sep; MPHWS 6 Nov.
Bald Eagle: 17 HM 15 Sep; 13 HM 27

Oct; 4 LNP 27 Oct; 5 HM 28 Oct.
N. Harrier: 6 HM 13 Oct.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: 111 HM 12 Sep; 123 HM 13 Oct.
N. Goshawk: arr HM 6 Oct (TF); good numbers at most hawkwatches.
Red-shouldered Hawk: 65 HM 29 Oct.
Broad-winged Hawk: 1236 HM 12 Sep; 9087 HM 15 Sep; 1299 MPHWS 15 Sep.
Rough-legged Hawk: MPHWS 6 Nov.
Golden Eagle: HM 8 Oct.
Am. Kestrel: 34 HM 12 Sep; 24 HM 13 Oct.
Merlin: 5 HM 12 Sep.
Peregrine Falcon: 2 Mid-Hudson Bridge 9 Oct.
Sora: PP 27 Oct.
Com. Moorhen: Rockland L 8 Sep.
Am. Coot: 81 Sylvan L 28 Oct.
Am. Golden Plover: 26 Pine I 9 Sep (G&MD).
Killdeer: 100 Pine I 9 Sep.
AMERICAN AVOCET: PP 7-13 Oct (A&DW, CW, JCo, LT).
Greater Yellowlegs: Round Pd DUTC 2 Oct; PP 27 Oct.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Snowy Owl: Kingston Plaza 10-19 Nov (KM, HR); Rhinebeck 13 Nov; CPP early Nov.

Long-eared Owl: Red Hook 7 Sep.

Short-eared Owl: arr SGNWR 13 Nov.

Com. Nighthawk: ROCK 4 Oct (FB), late

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD: LNP 17 Nov thru (MB, mob), *intro*.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last 6 Oct.

Red-headed Woodpecker: HM 27 Sep; MPH 10 Oct.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Cape Pd 13 Sep.

Philadelphia Vireo: Buttercup Sanctuary 10, 23 Sep.

Blue Jay: 3931 LNP 8 Oct.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: moved into Reg in good numbers by mid-Sep.

Am. Robin: 2645 LNP 10 Nov.

Grey-cheeked Thrush: Cape Pd 1 Oct (VF); 2 Reese Audubon Sanctuary 27 Oct (AM).

Am. Pipit: 40 Sheffield Hill Rd DUTC 11 Oct; MPH 25 Oct.

Cedar Waxwing: 200 SULL 17 Oct.

WARBLERS

Connecticut Warbler: Doodletown 8 Sep (RAS); Sterling Forest 12 Sep (TF, KW).

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Vesper Sparrow: CPP 13 Oct; Vassar

Farm 20 Oct.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: CPP 13 Oct (GD); 2 MC 22 Oct (NYRBA).

White-crowned Sparrow: Horseshoe L 9 Oct; MPH 10 Oct; 3 Cape Pd 11 Oct; Cape Pd 22 Oct.

White-throated Sparrow: arr LNP 2 Sep.

Dark-eyed Junco: arr (away from breeding areas) HM 13 Sep; albino MPH 9 Nov.

Indigo Bunting: Domin Farm DUTC 28 Oct, late.

Rusty Blackbird: MPH 10 Oct; 2 Roscoe 10 Oct; 15 Thompson Pd 26 Oct; MPH 14 Nov.

blackbird spp.: 32,000 LNP 5 Nov (E&JO); 42,000 LNP 11 Nov (E&JO).

Baltimore Oriole: 4 LNP 29 Nov (ASi).

Purple Finch: many reports in Oct and Nov.

White-winged Crossbill: Montgomery 28 Oct (AS); CRHW 28 Oct (JA); north-central SULL late Oct-10 Nov.

Pine Siskin: arr Oct in good numbers.

Evening Grosbeak: few Cape Pd 19 Oct (VF); 8 Rockefeller Preserve 22 Oct (NYRBA); many reports throughout after that.

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