

REGION 9 – HUDSON-DELAWARE

Michael Bochnik

86 Empire Street, Yonkers NY 10704

BochnikM@cs.com

September was warm, about 2.4°F above the norm. The southern part of the Region was very wet, with over 7" recorded in White Plains for the month. Less than 3" of rain fell in the northern counties. October saw the start of an extended cold period, with temperatures 1.4° to 1.9° cooler than normal. Rainfall continued below normal for Dutchess and Sullivan counties. Sullivan County experienced its first blanket of snow on 2-3 November. Dutchess County had its first accumulating snow on 18 November, with 3". Precipitation and temperatures were slightly below normal for the month.

Each fall, volunteers count the incredible numbers of Wood Ducks that enter the Bashakill Marsh on early fall evenings. This year, 1423 were counted on 29 September.

Hawk watches reported disappointing numbers. Mount Peter only managed 3946 Broad-winged Hawks for the season and Hook Mountain had 6665.

Sullivan County Audubon Society had a county bird contest for 2002. The purpose was to stimulate birders to do more birding locally, so that they can get more information about the birds of Sullivan County and improve the checklist. Rare birds required at least a second observer. This extensive birding paid off, as John Haas discovered an immature **Purple Gallinule** at the Bashakill Marsh on 17 October. It was fortunate that the water level was high and the bird chose to feed only 30-100' off Haven Road, which crosses the wetland. Dozens were able to view this cooperative bird over the weekend. It was last reported on 23 October. It was the first record for Sullivan County.

Another great find was a **Hudsonian Godwit**, a first for Dutchess County, found by Herb Thompson and Carena Pooth on 10 November in Rhinebeck. It was found feeding on a lawn next to a pond in a condominium complex about 1.5 miles away from the Hudson River. Many local birders saw and photographed it the next day. It remained until the 14th.

Andy Guthrie found a **Parasitic Jaeger** off Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary in Rye on 13 October. Long Island Sound continues to produce Northern Gannets in increasing numbers. Sixty-two were seen on 31 October and 97 on 16 November.

A *Selasphorus* hummingbird appeared at Lenoir Nature Preserve butterfly garden, Yonkers, the same location as last year's immature male Rufous Hummingbird, on 28 October. After careful study over the next few weeks, the bird was identified as an immature female **Rufous Hummingbird**. It stayed until 29 November when a cold spell below freezing killed the sage that it was feeding on.

I saw a second hummingbird in the presence of the Rufous on 9 November. It may have been a second *Selasphorus*, but this could never be confirmed. A second hummingbird was also reported on 18 and 20 November. It is possible there were two very similar looking birds. However, without seeing both clearly at the same time we were left with doubts. All the photographs I've seen seem to show the same individual. Rufous Hummingbirds are very territorial and will nearly always drive away other intruding hummingbirds.

Ellen and Joe O'Connell found a probable Connecticut Warbler at the Lenoir Nature Preserve butterfly garden on 15 September. Its skulking behavior prevented them from counting it as a life bird, but their description and its behavior certainly pointed to a Connecticut.

Other notable species included: American Golden-Plover, Whimbrel, Red-headed Woodpecker, Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow and Dickcissel.

CONTRIBUTORS

Michael Bochnik, Arlene Borko, Thomas Burke, Judith Cinquina, Mary Collier, Jeff Daley, Mark DeDea, Georges Dremeaux, Regina & Ron Ellard, Tom Fiore, Carol & Ken Fredericks, Valerie Freer, Dick Gershon, Andy Guthrie, John Haas, Gene Herskovics, Kevin Holcomb, Brian Houser, Carl Jaslowitz, Rob & Robin Jett, Kelli Jewell, Steven Kahl, Ellen & Joe O'Connell, Claudia Perretti, Vincent Plogar, Pat Pollock, Carena Pooth, Barry & Edith Rosen, Al Sargeant, Ruth Shursky, Seldon Spencer, Herb Thompson, Larry Trachtenberg, Chet Vincent, Bill Wallace, Joe Weise, Carol Weiss.

ABBREVIATIONS

CPP – Croton Pt P; EGR – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary; LNP – Lenoir Nature Preserve; RNC – Rye Nature Center; RTWBC – Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club; SGNWR – Shawangunk Grasslands NWR; WRNWR – Wallkill R NWR.

LOONS – DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: arr 2 EGR 27 Oct; max 60 EGR 16 Nov.
Com. Loon: max inland 12 Rondout Res 8 Nov.
Horned Grebe: inland, Neversink Res 27 Oct.
N. Gannet: 62 EGR 31 Oct (TB); 97 EGR 16 Nov (TB).
Great Cormorant: arr MC 28 Sep.
Am. Bittern: Bashakill 15-26 Oct (JH, VF).
Great Egret: max 8 MC 3 Oct.
Snowy Egret: MC 3 Oct.
Little Blue Heron: EGR 20 Sep (TB).
Black-crowned Night-Heron: 8 Dennings Pt 1 Sep.
Black Vulture: 13 SGNWR 10 Oct (SK).
Snow Goose: 200 Tomahawk L ORAN 5-6 Oct; 200 Tamarack 22 Oct; 250 Round Pd DUTC 20 Nov; 300 Vassar Farm 27 Nov; 260 EGR 28 Nov.
Brant: 1256 LNP 18 Oct.
Wood Duck: 20 Buttercup West 11 Sep; 1423 Bashakill 29 Sep; 1188 Bashakill 3 Oct.
Blue-winged Teal: 7 Bashakill 22 Oct.
N. Shoveler: arr 7 Sep.
N. Pintail: arr 17 Sep.
Green-winged Teal: 30 East Branch Res thru Sep; 50 Rockland L 13 Oct.
Ring-necked Duck: arr Kiamesha L 26 Oct; 30 Neversink Res. 26 Oct.
Greater Scaup: 260 EGR 13 Oct; max 2000 EGR 25 Nov.
Lesser Scaup: max 600 EGR 25 Sep; 4 EGR 22 Oct; 10 Neversink Res 30 Oct.
White-winged Scoter: 13 EGR 25 Sep (TB); 2 Neversink Res 6 Oct (JH); Neversink Res 29-30 Oct.
Black Scoter: 10 Neversink Res 29 Oct (VF); EGR 30 Oct..
Long-tailed Duck: 2-4 EGR 16, 19 Nov.
Bufflehead: arr 30 Neversink Res 22 Oct..
Com. Goldeneye: arr EGR 20 Nov.
Red-breasted Merganser: arr EGR 13 Oct.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: 34 Mt Peter 16 Sep; 43 LNP 18 Sep.
Bald Eagle: 7 Hook Mt 28 Sep; 10 at deer carcass Claryville 31 Oct.
N. Harrier: 6 WRNWR 23 Nov.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: 165 Hook Mt 18 Sep; 124 Hook Mt 19 Sep; 171 Hook Mt 29 Sep; 71 Mt Peter 14 Oct..
N. Goshawk: Claryville 17, 19 Sep; LNP 3 Nov; Stanfordville 24 Nov.
Broad-winged Hawk: 3619 Hook Mt 17 Sep; 974 Mt Peter 17 Sep; 986 LNP 18 Sep; 1200 Mohonk Preserve 19 Sep; 1615 Hook Mt 24 Sep.
Red-tailed Hawk: 1 mostly white with red tail Neversink Res 26 Oct (JH).
Rough-legged Hawk: 1-2 WRNWR 15 Nov thru (SK, KH).
Golden Eagle: 1 ad & 1 imm LNP 18 Oct (JO); 1 ad & 1 imm Hook Mt 22 Oct (TF); ad Mt Peter 2 Nov; imm Mt Peter 9 Nov; arr Stissing Mt 10 Nov (DG); 4 Mohonk Preserve 20 Nov (SS); 4 Stissing Mt 28 Nov (CV).
Am. Kestrel: 50 Hook Mt 29 Sep; 35 Mt Peter 5 Oct.
Peregrine Falcon: good numbers at hawk watches; Wappingers 14 Sep; Poughkeepsie RR Bridge 11 Nov; CPP 20 Nov.
Clapper Rail: MC 9 Sep.
Sora: CCP 2 Sep (LT); 2 MC 9 Sep; Sharparoon 25 Sep.
PURPLE GALLINULE: imm Bashakill Marsh 17-23 Oct (JH, mob), 1st for SULL, *intro*.
Am. Coot: max 70 Sylvan L 1, 5 Nov.
Black-bellied Plover: max 8 MC 9 Sep.
Am. Golden-Plover: 23 Pine I ORAN 8 Sep (GD); East Branch Res 17 Sep (BW); 12 WRNWR 26 Oct (SK, KH).
Semipalmated Plover: max 9 MC 9 Sep.
Killdeer: 100 Gardiner 6 Oct.
Am. Oystercatcher: 6 MC 9 Sep.
Greater Yellowlegs: max 19 MC 9 Sep.
Lesser Yellowlegs: Pine I ORAN 8 Sep; 4 MC 12 Oct..

Solitary Sandpiper: 3 Vanderbilt 4 Sep.
Upland Sandpiper: 5 Pine I ORAN 8 Sep (GD).
Whimbrel: MC 12 Sep (TB).
HUDSONIAN GODWIT: Rhinebeck 11-15 Nov (HT, CP, ph).
Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 28 MC 4 Sep.
Western Sandpiper: 5 Bronx Ri Tuckahoe 20 Oct (MB, KJ, CJ).
White-rumped Sandpiper: MC 12 Oct.
Pectoral Sandpiper: Pine I ORAN 8 Sep; MC 12 Oct; 3 Kennedy-Dells P ROCK 4 Nov.
Purple Sandpiper: arr EGR 14 Sep (AG), early; 25 EGR 15 Nov.
Dunlin: max 30 MC 25 Nov.
Short-billed Dowitcher: MC 4 Sep; 2 CPP 1 Nov (PP).
PARASITIC JAEGER: EGR 13 Oct (AG).
Laughing Gull: max 400 EGR 23 Sep; Hudson Ri DUTC 5 Nov.
Bonaparte's Gull: Bashakill Marsh 18 Oct (JH, MB, RD); max 20 EGR 16 Nov.
Iceland Gull: Monticello Landfill 9 Nov (JH).
Com. Tern: max 24 EGR 20 Sep.
Forster's Tern: max 45 EGR 13 Oct.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Short-eared Owl: SGNWR 31 Oct; 2 WRNWR 31 Oct.
Com. Nighthawk: 50 Mt Vernon 3 Sep; 20 Chestnut Ridge DUTC 9 Sep.
Whip-poor-will: 1-2 MC 7-9 Sep.
Chimney Swift: max 38 Rye 24 Sep.
RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD: imm f LNP 28 Oct-29 Nov (MB); *intro*.
Red-headed Woodpecker: LNP 24 Sep, 14 Oct (MB); Harriman SP 25 Oct.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: first migrant MC 24 Sep.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: MC 19 Sep (TB).
N. Shrike: Domin Farm & Rombout Rd DUTC 25, 26 Nov (CV).

Blue-headed Vireo: WRNWR 29 Oct.
Philadelphia Vireo: Vanderbilt 4 Sep (RTWBC); RNC 13 Sep (TB); MC 19, 28 Sep (TB).
Com. Raven: reports from all counties.
Horned Lark: EGR 28, 31 Oct; 70 Red Hook 16 Nov; 77 WRNWR 17 Nov; 22 Vassar Farm 27 Nov; 13 EGR 28 Nov.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: very few, no major movement reported.
Marsh Wren: 4 MC 9, 18 Sep; Thompson Pd 6 Oct; CPP 1 Nov.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: major movement 14 Oct.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: major movement 14 Oct.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: RNC 2 Oct.
American Pipit: 20 Gardiner 6 Oct; 200-300 Wallkill Valley Rail Trail, New Paltz 20 Oct; 40 Millbrook 20 Oct; 21 EGR 28 Oct; 30 CPP 1 Nov; 34 Rockland L 8 Nov; 30 CPP 20 Nov.
Cedar Waxwing: max 135 MC 20 Nov.

WARBLERS

Orange-crowned Warbler: Kingston 10 Oct (MD).
Yellow Warbler: MC 3 Oct, late.
Cape May Warbler: Stormville 17 Oct (B&ER).
Black-throated Blue Warbler: WRNWR 29 Oct (SK), late.
Pine Warbler: last 2 CPP 20 Nov.
Palm Warbler: 9 LNP 14 Oct.
N. Waterthrush: MC 26 Nov, late.
Connecticut Warbler: probable, LNP 15 Sep (E&JO).
Mourning Warbler: Rye 13 Sep (TB).
Yellow-breasted Chat: MC 19, 22 Sep (TB); EGR 24 Sep (TB).

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr 3 MC 19 Nov.
Vesper Sparrow: 2 SGNWR 10 Oct (SK); Bashakill 25 Oct; Claryville 26 Oct (VF, MC).
Savannah Sparrow: 8 SGNWR 10 Oct; max 80 WRNWR 20 Oct.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: 1-2 MC 3, 5, 15, 22 Oct (TB).

Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow: 4 MC 9 Sep.

Seaside Sparrow: MC 9 Sep (TB).

Fox Sparrow: arr 30 Oct; 40 SULL 8 Nov (JH).

Song Sparrow: max 60 WRNWR 20 Oct.

Lincoln's Sparrow: Horseshoe L SULL 8-22 Sep; MC 18, 25 Sep; EGR 24 Sep; SGNWR 12 Oct; 2 WRNWR 20 Oct.

Swamp Sparrow: max 50 WRNWR 20 Oct.

White-throated Sparrow: first migrant 21 Sep.

White-crowned Sparrow: EGR 28 Sep; Wurtsboro 16 Oct; 3 CPP 20 Oct; 20 WRNWR 20 Oct; 2 EGR 22 Oct; MC 23 Oct; WRNWR 29 Oct; Bashakill 10 Nov.

Dark-eyed Junco: first migrants 29 Sep.

Snow Bunting: few WRNWR 24 Oct (SK, KH); 3 Neversink Res 26 Oct (JH); 2 Rondout Res 26 Oct (VF, MC); 3

Neversink Res 27 Oct (JH); 8 EGR 28 Oct (TB); Willowemoc 6 Nov (JW); 3 EGR 2

Nov; EGR 25 Nov.

Indigo Bunting: Westbrookeville 19 Oct (JH), late.

Dickcissel: MC 5 Oct (TB).

E. Meadowlark: 20 SGNWR 10 Oct (SK); 5 CPP 20 Oct (GD).

Rusty Blackbird: 300 Bashakill 30 Oct (JH); 1-2 MC 21-28 Oct.

Red Crossbill: at feeder 19, 26 DUTC (EBR).

Evening Grosbeak: 3 at feeder Stormville 7 Sep (E&BR); Claryville 6 Nov (JW).

CORRIGENDA: *The Kingbird* 52 (4):

King Rail: pg 378 "1 MC 6, 13, 16 Jun (TBu, GSBC); 4 MC 8, 12 Jul (TBu)" should read: MC 6, 13, 16 Jun, 8, 12 Jul (TBu).

Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow: pg 379 "24 MC 6 Jun; 9 MC, Rye 15 Jun; 6 MC 19 Aug" should read: 2 MC 6 Jun; 9 MC, Rye 15 Jun; 6 MC 19 Aug.

Phone: (914) 785-3840 (work) (914) 237-9331 (home)