

REGION 9 – HUDSON-DELAWARE

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September was very wet with normal temperatures. Rock Hill in Sullivan County recorded 10.15" of rain. Average rainfall for this location is 4.6". Other areas of the Region were 2.0" to 2.5" above normal. Winds for the month frequently had a rare easterly component. Winds were generally northeast from 8-10 September and southeast from 14-19 September, followed by Hurricane Isabel racing from Virginia to the Canadian border west of our area. All this played a role in Broad-winged Hawk migration, with very low numbers seen through the Region. Most migrated far west of us. The only storm related birds were an immature Black Skimmer on 19 September off Rye and an immature Parasitic Jaeger on 20 September seen off Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary by three people. October started out cold for the first week, with temperatures reaching the

freezing point in Poughkeepsie on the 6th. This was followed by highs in the 70sF from 8-13 October. It all averaged out and the month was normal for both temperature and precipitation.

November was wetter than normal in the northern half of the Region, but drier than normal in White Plains. The third day in November saw record highs in the upper 70s. Temperatures dipped into the low 20s and teens from 8-11 November. Sullivan County had 1" of snow on 11 and 12 November. The last half of the month was warm and the month ended up 3-4° warmer than normal.

The most notable sighting of the season was that of a possible, if accepted by NYSARC, first state record of **White-throated Swift**. Judy Cinquina and Bill Elrick reported what they believe was this western vagrant at the Mt. Hawk Watch on 7 November. At 12:45 p.m., Judy saw the bird northwest of the hawkwatch and described a Chimney Swift shaped bird that when banking revealed a white rump. The swift soared and meandered its way right over the platform. She further described it as larger than a Chimney Swift, with the white of its throat continuing up onto the sides of its neck and down into its lower chest where it formed a vee. She noticed a buffy area through the eye and buffy edge to its forehead; otherwise its face was white. Its wings, back and tail were dark. At least one report was submitted to NYSARC. As with all possible first state records, which undergo a bit more scrutiny, I implore any of the lucky few who saw the bird to submit your own report, no matter how well you saw the bird.

Four Barnacle Geese were found on 27 October in a huge flock Canada Geese at Domin Farms near the town of Pleasant Valley. The next day Chet Vincent observed them on Traver Pond in the afternoon. The birds were seen for the next few days and photographed. They were last seen 10 November at Baird Park. As always, their origin is unknown. Most often they are considered escapes.

A Tundra Swan was discovered in Croton Bay, Westchester County on 22 November. It was seen by me, as well as Andrew Block and Sandra Marraffino. The bird was seen the next day as well.

Scott Graber discovered a Red-throated Loon on White Lake in Sullivan County on 21 November; this was Sullivan's third documented record. Another Red-throated Loon was observed a month earlier in Dutchess County.

Carol Weiss and Hugh Martin found a pair of Peregrine Falcons having an altercation with the local Common Ravens at Hook Mountain on 22 September. They noticed that the female peregrine was wearing a radio antenna. Thanks to some research by e-mails and the Internet, a researcher in Virginia responded. The bird was being tracked by satellite and a map indicated the bird was just north of Nyack on the Hudson that day. This bird was a wanderer; she was tracked from Virginia to West Virginia to Pennsylvania to New York.

Joe O'Connell had a probable **Sandhill Crane** fly over the hawkwatch at the Lenoir Nature Preserve in Yonkers on 8 November. The bird was seen at about a 0.25 mile distance, flying in a southerly direction down the Hudson River.

Renee Davis and John Haas discovered a Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Pine

Island Turf Nursery, Orange County on 7 September. Also noted were six American Golden-Plovers, over 40 Killdeer, six Pectoral Sandpipers and a Short-billed Dowitcher. The Buff-breasted Sandpipers increased to four on 17 September.

Steven Kahl, Acting Refuge Manager, reported that the restored wetlands of the Liberty Marsh Restoration Project at Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge are providing habitat for many wetland bird species. Two Whimbrel were spotted on 8 September. The birds were using the new impoundment on the north side of Oil City Road, adjacent to the Wallkill River.

Dot Fluery, Barbara Butler and Binnie Chase found a Forster's Tern while sailing off Dennings Point on 22 September. The last Dutchess County sighting was back in October 1987. A high count of 120 Forster's Terns were at Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary 28 September.

A smattering of winter species just made it into the fall season, with John Haas finding Lesser Black-backed Gull, Glaucous Gull and Iceland Gull at the Sullivan County Landfill on 29 November.

Steve Walter found an "Ipswich" Sparrow well inland in northern Westchester County at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation on 2 November. It was associating with a more typical Savannah Sparrow, affording a nice comparison. He was able to capture both in a photograph as well.

Marge Gorton and Renee Davis found two flocks of Evening Grosbeaks in Claryville and Fir Brook, Sullivan County, on 30 November.

Other notable species included: Sedge Wren, Clay-colored Sparrow, Gambel's race of White-crowned Sparrow and Dickcissel.

CONTRIBUTORS

Gail Benson, Andrew Block, Michael Bochnik, Arlene Borko, Tom Burke, Barbara Butler, Bill Case, Binnie Chase, Drew Ciganik, Judy Cinquina, Kris Conklin, Renee Davis, Jayne Dean, David Diaz, Mike Dolan, Peter Dorosh, Bill Elrick, Carol Fredericks, Valerie Freer, Dick Gershon, Marge Gorton, Scott Graber, Andy Guthrie, John Haas, Dick Hirschman, Kevin Holcomb, Steven Kahl, John Kenny, Mary Key, Sandra Marraffino, Hugh Martin, Andy Mason, Allan & Barbara Michelin, Ellen & Joe O'Connell, Alan & Jan Peterson, Pat Pollock, Carena Pooth, Charlie Roberto, Al Sargeant, Ruth Shursky, Kristin Smith, Ed Spaeth, Selden Spencer, Evelyn Stevenson, Herb Thompson, Chet Vincent, Carol Weiss, Alan & Della Wells, Ken Witkowski.

ABBREVIATIONS

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

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Snow Goose: arr Napanoch 28 Sep; blue morph DUTC 4-10 Nov; max 900 Wappingers Creek 22 Nov.
Brant: max 598 LNP Hawk Watch 8 Nov.
BARNACLE GOOSE: 4 Pleasant Valley 27 Oct-10 Nov (CV, BCa, AP, ph), unknown origin.
Tundra Swan: Croton Bay 21-22 Nov (AB, MB, SM, E&JO).
Wood Duck: 1645 Bashakill 7 Oct.
Am. Black Duck: 50 WRNWR 3 Nov.
Mallard: 450 WRNWR 3 Nov.
N. Pintail: 30 WRNWR 16-21 Oct; 60 WRNWR 1 Nov.
Green-winged Teal: 20 Liberty Marsh Restoration Project WRNWR 22 Sep; 220 WRNWR 1 Nov.
Ring-necked Duck: 100 Abel's Pond 7 Oct; 120 Pine Plains 15 Nov; 200 Abel's Pond Nov thru.
Surf Scoter: 10 EGR 5 Nov.
White-winged Scoter: 10 EGR 17 Oct; LNP 23 Nov.
Black Scoter: 3 EGR 5 Nov.
Long-tailed Duck: PP 17 Nov (MD).
Red-breasted Merganser: 3 Vandenberg Cove 9 Oct (CV).
Ruddy Duck: 35 Sylvan L 7 Oct.
N. Bobwhite: Youngsville 3 Oct.
Red-throated Loon: Millbrook 18-25 Oct (A&JP); White L SULL 21 Nov (SG).
N. Gannet: arr EGR 6 Nov; 5 by end of Nov.
Great Cormorant: arr 25 Oct.
Am. Bittern: Bashakill 22 Sep; WRNWR 16 Oct -30 Nov.
Little Blue Heron: EGR 20 Sep.
Green Heron: WRNWR 16 Oct.
Black Vulture: 18 SGNWR 26 Oct.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: max 29 Hook Mt 24 Sep; Hook Mt 2 Nov, late; Mt Peter 14 Nov, very late.
Bald Eagle: 4 LNP 6 Sep; 4 Hook Mt 5, 9, 25, 30 Sep, 5 Oct; 6 LNP 5 Oct.
N. Harrier: 13 Hook Mt 25 Sep, 8 Oct;

9-11 WRNWR 27 Oct thru.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 196 Hook Mt 25 Oct; 80 Mt Peter 25 Oct.
Cooper's Hawk: 25 LNP 11 Oct; 13 Hook Mt 14 Oct.
N. Goshawk: Hook Mt 13 Oct; Mt Peter 16 Oct, 7, 8 Nov; LNP 18, 25 Oct, 8 Nov; 2 Hook Mt 30 Oct.
Red-shouldered Hawk: generally very low at hawkwatches; 4 Hook Mt 11 Oct; 26 LNP 2 Nov; 20 LNP 22 Nov.
Broad-winged Hawk: 593 Mt Peter 24 Sep; 137 Hook Mt 21 Oct; last LNP 13 Oct; Hook Mt season total only 592; season total at Mt Peter 2110.
Red-tailed Hawk: 13 Hook Mt 18 Oct; 122 Mt Peter 24 Oct; albino Rosendale 8 Nov; 404 Mt Peter 8 Nov; 114 LNP 22 Nov.
Rough-legged Hawk: dark phase WRNWR 18 Oct thru; LNP 20 Oct; WRNWR 21 Oct; Sullivan Hawk Watch 25 Oct; Stony Kill 25 Oct; Mt Peter 14 Nov.
Golden Eagle: 4 LNP 8 Nov; Hook Mt 13, 30, 31 Oct; Mt Peter 26, 28 Oct, 3 Nov; 8 Stissing Mt 30 Oct.
Am. Kestrel: 22 Hook Mt 8 Oct.
Merlin: 6 Hook Mt 16 Sep; 4 Hook Mt 31 Oct; CPP 22 Nov.
Peregrine Falcon: 5 Hook Mt 8 Oct; m & f Hook Mt 2 Sep (CW, HM), f with transmitter part of a satellite-tracking project, *intro*.
Virginia Rail: 4 Tallman Mt SP 1 Sep.
Sora: 3 Tallman Mt SP 1 Sep; imm MC 16 Oct.
SANDHILL CRANE: LNP 8Nov, probable ID at 0.25 mi, *intro*.
Am. Golden-Plover: 6 Pine Island 7 Sep; WRNWR 21-26 Oct.
Killdeer: 40 Pine Island 7 Sep.
Am. Oystercatcher: last 3 EGR 10 Nov.
Greater Yellowlegs: PP 22 Nov.
Spotted Sandpiper: Wurtsboro 22 Sep.
Whimbrel: 2 WRNWR 8 Sep (SK, KH).
Red Knot: EGR 28 Sep (TB).
Pectoral Sandpiper: 6 Pine Island 7 Sep.

Purple Sandpiper: PP 7 Nov.
Dunlin: 1-3 WRNWR 16-26 Oct; 10-14 WRNWR 1-16 Nov.
Buff-breasted Sandpiper: Pine Island 7 Sep (JH, RD); 4 Pine Island 17 Sep (JC).
Short-billed Dowitcher: Pine Island 7 Sep (JH, RD).
Parasitic Jaeger: imm EGR 20 Sep (TB, GB, AG).
Bonaparte's Gull: WRNWR 2 Nov (SK).
Iceland Gull: SULL Landfill 29 Nov (JH).
Lesser Black-backed Gull: SULL Landfill 29-30 Nov (JH).
Glaucous Gull: SULL Landfill 29 Nov (JH).
Caspian Tern: 2 Tallman Marsh 1 Sep (DC); PP 2 Sep (CW).
Com. Tern: PP 2 Sep (CW).
Forster's Tern: Dennings Pt 22 Sep (BB, BCh); 120 EGR 28 Sep; 77 EGR 22 Oct; last EGR 20 Nov.
Black Skimmer: imm Rye 19 Sep (TB).

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Short-eared Owl: arr SGNWR 26 Oct; 3-6 WRNWR 1-30 Nov.
Com. Nighthawk: 98 Bashakill 6 Sep; 60 MC 24 Sep.
WHITE-THROATED SWIFT: Mt Peter 7 Nov (JC, BE, NYSARC), would be first State record if accepted by NYSARC, *intro*.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 5 Mt Peter 5 Sep.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: MC 7-8 Sep.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: MC 14 Sep.
Philadelphia Vireo: Bashakill 9, 11 Sep; MC 10 Sep; 3 Buttercup East Sanctuary 17 Sep; Pawling 1 Oct.
Horned Lark: 75 Pine Island 21 Nov; 60 Greig's farm, Red Hook 9 Nov.
Bank Swallow: 50 Bashakill 4 Sep.
Cliff Swallow: 50 Bashakill 4 Sep; MC 1 Oct.
Barn Swallow: 150 Bashakill 4 Sep.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: first migrant 9 Sep; quite common in Nov.
Sedge Wren: MC 10 Oct (TB).
Gray-cheeked Thrush: Bashakill 5 Oct (JH).
Am. Robin: max 500 at roost T LaGrange 7 Nov.
Am. Pipit: arr 11 Oct; 20-100 WRNWR 16 Oct thru; flock CPP 20 Oct; 2 SGNWR 26 Oct; 30 Millbrook 31 Oct; 10 PP 2, 7 Nov; 35 Buttercup West 15 Nov; 12 CPP 2, 22 Nov.
Cedar Waxwing: 50 (one partial albino) Poughkeepsie thru Oct (MK); 60 Poughkeepsie 12 Oct.

WARBLERS

Orange-crowned Warbler: EGR 6 Nov; MC 21 Nov.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: SGNWR 26 Oct.
Blackpoll Warbler: CPP 20 Oct.
Connecticut Warbler: Buttercup West 27 Sep (CF, RTWBC).
Mourning Warbler: MC 1-5 Sep.
Yellow-breasted Chat: MC 29 Sep, 2 Oct (TB).

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr 8 Nov.
Clay-colored Sparrow: EGR 17 Oct (TB).
Vesper Sparrow: 2 Pound Ridge 12 Oct; LNP 12 Oct; 2 CP 13 Oct; Yorktown Heights 13 Oct; 2 CPP 24 Oct; 2 WRNWR 18 Oct-3 Nov.
Savannah Sparrow: 30 WRNWR 16 Oct; 40 WRNWR 3 Nov.
"Ipswich" Savannah Sparrow: Ward Pound Ridge Reservation 2 Nov (SW).
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: arr MC 7 Oct; 5 MC 13 Oct; last MC 11 Nov.
Fox Sparrow: arr 24 Oct.
Song Sparrow: 100 WRNWR 3 Nov.
Lincoln's Sparrow: CPP 7, 13 Sep; 2 EGR 17 Oct; WRNWR 21 Oct; LNP 25 Oct; 2 WRNWR 25 Oct.
Swamp Sparrow: 75 WRNWR 3 Nov.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr 2 CP 13 Oct; 30 WRNWR 16 Oct; many reports 17-18 Oct; 10 WRNWR 25 Oct; Gambel's race EGR 26-27 Oct(TB); 40 WRNWR 3 Nov.

Snow Bunting: Sams Pt, Shawangunk Ridge 23 Oct; 2 Millbrook 26 Oct; 1-2 WRNWR 3, 16 Nov; 8 PP 7 Nov; 15 PP 17 Nov; Neversink Res 30 Nov; Claryville 30 Nov.

Indigo Bunting: WRNWR 16 Nov (SK).

Dickcissel: EGR 9 Sep, 27 Oct (TB); MC 1 Oct (TB).

Bobolink: 40 CPP 7 Sep.

Rusty Blackbird: 10 MC 24 Oct; 2

Harlem Valley Rail Trail 9 Nov; 2 T LaGrange 15 Nov.

blackbirds sp: 22,035 LNP Hawk Watch 15 Nov; 19,317 LNP Hawk Watch 16 Nov; mainly Red-winged Blackbirds plus Common Grackle.

Baltimore Oriole: 30 Bashakill 4 Sep.

Purple Finch: 177 MC 24 Oct (TB); 32 Mt Peter 31 Oct (JC).

Pine Siskin: 3 Horseshoe L thru Sep; MC 24 Oct; 6 WRNWR 3 Nov; Fishkill 8 Nov; 20 LNP 21 Nov.

Evening Grosbeak: 12 Claryville 30 Nov (RD, MG); 35 Fir Brook 30 Nov (RD, MG).