

REGION 9 - HUDSON - DELAWARE

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The fall season started off very dry and warm, continuing the drought-like conditions that started in mid July. September was one the driest on record. Sullivan County had less than an inch of rain. Across the river in Poughkeepsie, only 0.6 inches of precipitation fell. The southern area of

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105

Region 9 fared slightly better. White Plains recorded 1.6 inches but still far short of the normal 4.7 inches. The month was also 4 to 6 degrees warmer than normal. Highs in Poughkeepsie were 80° and above for the first three weeks. By mid month some trees were going dormant with leaves turning brown and falling. Insects, especially mosquitoes, were almost unnoticeable. This may have lead to a scarcity of food as migrants did not linger.

Conditions changed dramatically when the remnants of Tropical Storm Tammy combined with a cold front and dumped heavy rains on 7, 8 October. The front stalled and tropical moisture continually traveled along the front to dump more heavy rain on the area for another 6 days. Nearly all rivers and ponds overflowed their banks. The mud flats at Swinging Bridge Reservoir, responsible for many shorebird sightings in August and September, were now under 15 feet of water. Rainfall totals were astounding. Poughkeepsie had over 7.5 inches of rain on the 8th and 14.4 inches over the 8 day period. A week later a cold front arrived on the 22nd bringing more rain. A nor'easter formed three days later off New England and, fed by moisture feeding back from Hurricane Wilma, brought another 1.5 inches of rain. October was one of the wettest months on record. Poughkeepsie recorded 17.6 inches of rain. Normal rainfall is only 3.6 inches. October ended up 1.5 to 3 degrees warmer than normal. Six to twelve inches of snow accumulated on the upper elevations in the Catskill High Peaks on 22 October and remained throughout the period. Poughkeepsie's first frost occurred on the 24th.

November started out warm, with highs in the seventies on the 4th and 5th. It was in the seventies again on the 16th. The first killing frost came very late in northern Ulster County during the early morning hours of 18 November. Tree foliage change and leaf-drop also occurred very late into the season. Poughkeepsie ended up 4 degrees warmer than normal. Precipitation varied, with Liberty a third of an inch wetter but Poughkeepsie and inch drier for November.

Hank Weber saw three **White Pelicans** soar over Rye Town Park, Westchester County on 1 November. Three days later Evan Mark found a single White Pelican at Croton Point Park on 4 November. It circled over the capped landfill and flew out heading Northwest. These would represent the 2nd and 3rd sightings for Westchester County, the first occurring in September 1994.

Broad-winged Hawks peaked on 19, 21, and 24 September, but numbers were moderate. Mt Peter had over 1200 on the 19th, Hook Mountain was over 1300 on the 21st, and Bear Mountain hits its peak on the 24th with 1400. A dark-morph bird was reported from Mount Peter on 20 September.

The Lenoir Hawk Watch in Yonkers had a banner day on 16 October. A cold front had finally arrived to push out the last rain after a week of record rainfall. The strong west winds pushed hawks east, so Hook Mt and Mt Peter had only a fair day of hawk watching. Connecticut was still in the clouds and drizzle, making the eastern shore of the Hudson a corridor for the hawks that day. Highlights that day included 10 Bald Eagles, 3 Golden Eagles, and 37

Merlin. Maximum day counts for the Region were recorded for Sharp-shinned Hawk and Peregrine Falcon.

The Swinging Bridge Reservoir recorded plenty of shorebirds till the heavy rain. The highlight was 4 Black-bellied Plovers found on 17 September by John Haas for Sullivan County's 4th record. American Golden-Plover, Baird's Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Dunlin, Stilt Sandpiper, and Short-billed Dowitcher all made appearances. Three Buff-breasted Sandpipers were at Pine Island on 3 September. Two Willets were found at Piermont Pier on 4 September followed by a Glossy Ibis there on 12 September. Then on 22 October Drew Ciganik's son came home and told him "Dad, there's a different bird on the end of Pier." Drew senior went out to confirm and identify a Hudsonian Godwit.

A large chickadee migration was observed on 5 November. Over 1000 Black-capped Chickadees were seen moving south in flocks of 25 – 80 at the Lenoir Nature Preserve between 10 AM and 1 PM. Many more may have passed by the area earlier in the day. This movement of chickadees explains the Boreal Chickadee that was found in Sterling Forest a day earlier on 4 November. Others noted smaller chickadee movements between 8 September and mid November.

Among the rarer sightings, first we have Mark DeDea, Mary Jo Wiltshire, John Hickey, and Paul McCullough finding a **Townsend's Solitaire** on Immigrant's Way, just north of Kingston Point Beach on 12 November. This will be Ulster County's first record, if a report is submitted and accepted by the NYS Avian Records Committee. The bird was observed in a cedar tree for several minutes before flying northward. Next, 3 Orange-crowned Warblers made appearances, all in Westchester County, a well described Connecticut Warbler was found at Rockland Lake SP on 10 September, and an immature was at Marshlands Conservancy on 30 September. Finally, an immature Blue Grosbeak was found at the Hummock's School, Larchmont on 16 October.

Finally looking to the winter finches, 2 Pine Grosbeaks were in Westbrookville on 29 October, the only report of Red Crossbill was from Woodstock on 13 November, and Evening Grosbeaks were noted in Sullivan County, with numerous reports beginning on 28 October and continuing through November. They were absent from the southern part of the Region.

Other notable species include: Sedge Wren, Lapland Longspur, Dicksissel.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

CPP-Croton Point Park, EGR-Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, HM – Hook Mountain, LNP - Lenoir Nature Preserve, MC - Marshlands Conservancy, RNC-Rye Nature Center, SBR - Swinging Bridge Reservoir.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: 40 Summitville 6 Oct;
40 SBR 10 Oct.
Brant: migrating flocks past hawk
watches were fewer than normal.
Wood Duck: 1541 Bashakill 30 Sep.
Gadwall: 12 Rockland Lake SP 28 Nov.
N. Pintail: Six-and-a-half Station Marsh
4 Oct; Swan L 1-7 Oct; Wurtsboro
19 Nov.
Green-winged Teal: 40 Bashakill
26 Sep; 40 Swan L 1 Oct.
Redhead: 2 Rockland Lake 25 Oct thru.
Ring-necked Duck: 25 Abel's Pd,
Union Vale 2, 9 Oct; 40 Bashakill
23-25 Oct.
Greater Scaup: arr EGR 17 Oct;
400 EGR 29 Nov.
Lesser Scaup: arr EGR 17 Oct;
75 EGR 29 Nov.
Surf Scoter: EGR 23 Oct.
White-winged Scoter: EGR 26 Sep;
2 Neversink Res 9 Oct (RD,JHa,AB);
EGR 8 Oct; 4 EGR 13 Nov.
Black Scoter: 6 Neversink Res 25 Oct
(JHa, AB).
Long-tailed Duck: 25 EGR 24 Nov.
Bufflehead: arr 23 Oct; 50 EGR 13 Nov.
Com. Goldeneye: 45 Yankee L 19 Nov;
4 EGR 30 Nov.
Hooded Merganser: arr EGR 3 Nov.
Com. Merganser: 5 Tarrytown Re
20 Nov.
Red-breasted Merganser: arr 23 Oct
Ruddy Duck: 330 Sylvan L, Beekman
29 Oct.
N. Bobwhite: Poughkeepsie 27 Sep.
Red-throated Loon: arr EGR 23 Oct;

Neversink Res 16, 26 Nov (JHa).
Com. Loon: arr EGR 15 Oct; 14 EGR
30 Nov.
Horned Grebe: arr Kiamasha Lake
25 Oct.
N. Gannet: EGR 15 Nov; 8 EGR
29 Nov.
WHITE PELICAN: Rye 1 Nov (HW);
CPP 4 Nov (EM), 2nd and 3rd WEST
records, *intro*.
Double-crested Cormorant: 185
EGR 24 Nov.
Great Cormorant: arr EGR 24 Oct;
8 EGR 24 Nov.
Am. Bittern: Bashakill 26 Sep;
Callicoon Center 6 Oct.
Great Blue Heron: 12 EGR 16 Oct.
Great Egret: 8 MC 2 Oct; EGR 22,
24 Nov.
Snowy Egret: 3 MC 2 Oct.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: Six-and-
a-half Station Marsh 4 Oct; 21 EGR
10 Oct.
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:
Dennings Pt 30 Sep.
Glossy Ibis: Piermont Pier 12 Sep (DC).
Black Vulture: 5 LNP 16 Oct; 10
Shawangunk Grasslands NWR 26 Nov.
Turkey Vulture: 222 LNP 16 Oct.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: 29 HM 18 Sep; last Mt Peter
26 Oct.
Bald Eagle: 10 LNP 16 Oct.
N. Harrier: 7 HM 18 Sep.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: 93 HM 27 Sep;
280 LNP 16 Oct, Regional high record
count; 276 HM 19 Oct.

Cooper's Hawk: 48 Mt Peter 15 Oct; 36 LNP 16 Oct.
N. Goshawk: SBR 5 Sep; HM 16 Oct; 7 Summitville 23 Oct (JHa,FF).
Broad-winged Hawk: 553 HM 11 Sep; 1240 Mt Peter 19 Sep; 656 HM 19 Sep; dark-morph Mt Peter 20 Sep (AA); 1336 HM 21 Sep; 1094 Mt Peter 21 Sep; 1400 Bear Mountain 24 Sep; EGR 23 Oct; last HM 24 Oct.
Red-tailed Hawk: 112 Summitville 23 Oct; albino Mt Peter 26 Oct (DR).
Rough-legged Hawk: Summitville 23 Oct; Fremont 25 Nov.
Golden Eagle: 3 LNP 16 Oct; HM 26 Oct; 4 Summitville 23 Oct; EGR 23 Oct; 2 Summitville 29 Oct; 3 Mt Peter 1 Nov; Mt Peter 2 Nov.
Am. Kestrel: 33 HM 26 Sep.
Merlin: 37 LNP 16 Oct.
Peregrine Falcon: 6 LNP 16 Oct, Regional high record count.
Am. Coot: arr Bashakill 26 Sep; 36 Rockland Lake SP 28 Nov.
Black-bellied Plover: SBR 17 Sep (JHa), 4th county record.
Am. Golden-Plover: SBR 1, 2 Sep (JHa,RD,VF); MC 1 Oct (TB).
Semipalmated Plover: 2 MC 1 Sep; MC 4 Oct; 2 Piermont Pier 24 Oct - 10 Nov.
Am. Oystercatcher: 2 MC 1 Sep; 2 EGR 26 Sep; 2 MC 4 Oct; 2 EGR 8 Oct; 3 EGR 24 Nov.
Greater Yellowlegs: 6 MC 1 Sep; 5 SBR 17 Sep; 2 Piermont 25 Oct.
Lesser Yellowlegs: 7 SBR 17 Sep.
Solitary Sandpiper: Thompson Pond 1 Sep.
Willet: 2 Piermont Pier 4 Sep (A&DW, CW).
Hudsonian Godwit: 22 Oct Piermont Pier (DC, DCJ).
Ruddy Turnstone: EGR 8, 9 Oct.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 7 MC 7 Sep.
Least Sandpiper: 20 Hillside Lake 2 Sep; 2 Hudson Valley Rail Trail 3 Oct.
Baird's Sandpiper: SBR 1-5 Sep (JHa,RD,MG,AB,VF,PD).
Pectoral Sandpiper: 9 SBR 14 Sep.

Purple Sandpiper: 12 EGR 17 Nov; 24 EGR 24 Nov; Piermont Pier 29 Nov (A&DW).
Dunlin: SBR 8 Oct; 2 MC 18 Nov.
Stilt Sandpiper: 9 SBR 1 Sep; last 2 SBR 12 Sep (JHa,AB).
Buff-breasted Sandpiper: 3 Pine Island 3 Sep (CF).
Short-billed Dowitcher: SBR 4 Sep.
Wilson's Snipe: 14 New Paltz 29 Oct.
Laughing Gull: 80 MC 23 Sep; 100 EGR 26 Sep; 80 EGR 16 Nov; 6 EGR 30 Nov.
Bonaparte's Gull: Morningside 10 Sep; Norrie Pt 9 Oct; EGR 22, 30 Nov.
Iceland Gull: 80 MC 23 Sep; 100 EGR 26 Sep; 80 EGR 16 Nov; 6 EGR 30 Nov.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: Monticello 19, 30 Nov (JHa).
Com. Tern: 40 EGR 1 Oct; EGR 29 Oct.
Forster's Tern: 30 EGR 26 Oct; 12 EGR 29 Oct.

DOVES - WOODPECKERS

Short-eared Owl: CPP 5 Nov; 5 Shawangunk Grasslands NWR 26 Nov.
Com. Nighthawk: 22 MC 1 Sep; 2 MC 2 Oct.
Chimney Swift: lingered thru Oct.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 2 LNP 22 Oct.
Red-headed Woodpecker: LNP 19 Sep; HM 30 Sep.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

E. Kingbird: 10 MC 1 Sep.
N. Shrike: 1 Summitville 29 Oct (VF); Cape Pond 21, 28 Nov (PM, KC).
Yellow-throated Vireo: Mt Peter 2 Sep (JC), singing a Blue-headed Vireo song.
Blue-headed Vireo: 2 MC 28 Oct.
Philadelphia Vireo: 2 Depot Hill MUA 3 Sep (CP); Swan Lake 4 Sep (JHa,AB); MC 6 Sep (TB).
Horned Lark: 2 MC 17 Nov; 22 EGR 17 Nov 10; 14 Monticello 19 Nov; Bethel 25 Nov.
Tree Swallow: 80 EGR 23 Oct.
Bank Swallow: 2 MC 7 Sep.
Black-capped Chickadee: 1000+ LNP 5 Nov (MB,KJ), *intro*.
Boreal Chickadee: Sterling Forest

4 Nov (JI).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: moving south by mid Sep.

Sedge Wren: MC 30 Oct (AG).

Marsh Wren: 6 MC 23 Sep, 4 Oct.

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE:

Immigrant's Way, Kingston Point
12 Nov (MDe,MW,JHi,PM), first
Ulster County record.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: Cape Pond
20 Sep (VF); RNC 22 Sep (TB).

Hermit Thrush: 12 Esopus Bend
Nature Preserve, Saugerties 19 Nov.

Am. Pipit: 127 SBR 7, 8 Oct; 13

Piermont 30 Oct; 25 CPP 4 Nov;

36 CPP 5 Nov; 36 Bashakill 25 Nov.

Cedar Waxwing: 40 EGR 23 Oct; 50
CPP 5 Nov.

WARBLERS

Orange-crowned Warbler: MC 28 Sep
(TB); Hummock's School, Larchmont
16 Oct (TB); LNP 18 Oct (MB).

Cape May Warbler: CPP 5 Nov (CR).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: 201

LaGrangeville 19 Oct; 40 Piermont
Pier 24 Oct; 40 MC 27 Oct.

Palm Warbler: 15 CPP 4 Nov.

Blackpoll Warbler: MC 28, 30 Oct.

Connecticut Warbler: Rockland Lake
10 Sep (KQ), well described; imm
MC 30 Sep (TB), seen well.

Mourning Warbler: MC 5 Sep.

Wilson's Warbler: Kingston Point
21 Nov (MDe).

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr CPP 1 Nov.

Vesper Sparrow: 14 CPP 23 Oct; 2 SBR
23 Oct; Bethel 23 Oct; Kingston Point
Park 5 Nov.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow:

MC 1 Oct; 4 MC 4 Oct; 5 MC 19 Oct;
MC 2 Nov.

Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow:

2 MC 2 Sep; EGR 28 Sep; MC 4 Oct.

Fox Sparrow: 6 Saugerties 5 Nov.

Song Sparrow: 80 Piermont 24 Oct.

Lincoln's Sparrow: EGR 20 Sep;

2 EGR 26 Sep; Stony Kill 28 Sep;

2 MCD 1 Oct; New Paltz 3 Oct;

Morningside Park 10 Oct; Cohecton

10 Oct; EGR 16 Oct; LaGrangeville

19 Oct; New Paltz 11 Nov.

Swamp Sparrow: 20 EGR 18 Oct; 20
MC 19 Oct;

White-throated Sparrow: arr in
wintering areas 18 Sep.

White-crowned Sparrow: Vassar

College Farms 5 Oct; Neversink

14 Oct; 9 EGR 18 Oct; 5 LaGrangeville

19 Oct; Bashakill 21 Oct; Youngsville

22, 27 Oct; 7 Town of North East
23 Oct.

Dark-eyed Junco: arr in non-breeding
areas 18 Sep, early.

Lapland Longspur: Kingston Point
27 Nov (MDe).

Snow Bunting: Piermont Pier 24 Oct;

2 Summitville 27 Oct; 1-5 Bashakill 29,

30 Oct- 20 Nov; 2-3 Piermont 29,30 Oct;

6 Kingston Point 13 Nov; 3 Monticello
30 Nov.

Blue Grosbeak: imm Hummock's

School, Larchmont 16 Oct (AG, TB).

Dickcissel: Rye 16 Oct (TB); MC 4 Nov (TB).

E. Meadowlark: 40 CPP 23 Oct.

Rusty Blackbird: 200 Summitville 27

Oct (JHa); 115 Bashakill 28 Oct (JHa).

Pine Grosbeak: 2 Westbrookville 29
Oct (SB).

Red Crossbill: 4 Woodstock 13 Nov (PS).

Pine Siskin: arr 26 Oct; MC 28 Oct;

2 EGR 17 Nov.

Evening Grosbeak: many reports SULL

28 Oct thru; Forsyth Nature Center,

Kingston 27, 29 Oct; Mt Peter 31 Oct;

Rhinebeck 1 Nov; New Paltz 12 Nov;

20 Monticello 25 Nov.

