

## REGION 9—HUDSON – DELAWARE

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Remnants of Hurricane *Hanna* affected the area on 6 September with plenty of rain. This precipitation helped September come in a little wetter and warmer than normal. The first half of October was very warm. Poughkeepsie was in the 70s for half of those days. Even Monticello was in the 70s on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, and Poughkeepsie reached 75° on the 15<sup>th</sup>. An unexpected storm from the ocean hit on 28 October and brought heavy snow in the western part and higher elevations of Region 9. Up to 12" were dumped. The southern and eastern parts of the Region saw heavy rain and wind. October still came in drier than average but a degree colder. November was also drier than normal, and it also started warm. Monticello was in the 60s from 5 to 7 November. An unusual cold snap hit 18 to 24 November. Monticello dipped to 17° on the morning of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 8° on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Even southern Westchester saw temperatures in the low twenties. There was snow in the higher elevations of Sullivan and Ulster County on 25-26 November.

Drew Ciganek observed a King Eider at the end of Piermont Pier, late afternoon on 23 November. The next morning the eider was easily found off the very end of the Pier, often approaching within 10 feet. The bird appeared to be a first cycle male. Photos were posted shortly on <[www.rocklandaudubon.org](http://www.rocklandaudubon.org)>. On that same day the pier hosted a Purple Sandpiper and Dunlin on nearby rocks. The eider remained until the end of November and into December.

Two days after Hurricane *Hanna* affected the area, a **SWALLOW-TAILED KITE** was found by Carol Weiss moving south past Hook Mountain in Nyack late on Monday morning, 8 September. The kite appeared from below the south side of the mountain, over Upper Nyack. It circled the entire hilltop, at times coming within a few hundred feet of the hawk watch, and then flew south over Nyack and disappeared from view. Rockland County's other sightings were in 1900 and 1951, but it is a first for the Hook Mountain hawkwatch, which began in 1971.

Broad-winged Hawk numbers were down for most of the hawk watches, except for record numbers at Mt Peter. It appears many Broad-wings took a more westerly route this fall.

On a day most other hawk watches did not report data due to rain and high gusty winds, a few diehards at the Lenoir Nature Preserve hawkwatch recorded 36 Bald Eagles on 26 September. There was a break in the rain and no other raptors were seen due to the heavy wind with gusts up to 20 mph. The Region also saw increased numbers of both Rough-legged Hawk and Golden Eagle.

Dutchess County had its fourth record for Ruddy Turnstone when an individual appeared at Chelsea Yacht Club along the Hudson River on 17 September. A second sighting of a different bird was made there two days later.

Tait Johansson and Cameron Rutt quantified the hummingbird migration past Chestnut Ridge Hawk Watch (Bedford, Westchester County) this fall.

Hummingbird migration peaked in late August and the first half of September, the highest single-day count was 42 on 15 September, and they tallied 284 hummingbirds for the season (see pp. 12-15).

Beverly Simone found a Rufous Hummingbird at her Clarkstown feeder on 24 September. Carol Weiss observed it the next day and Alan Wells photographed it the day after. This adult male Rufous Hummingbird was seen almost daily until 10 October. It was sighted again on 26 Oct and 10 November. This is Rockland County's first record for this species.

Tom Burke found a **CAVE SWALLOW** at Marshlands Conservancy, Rye, on 9 November. A week later on 16 November two appeared at nearby Edith G. Read Sanctuary and were seen by Paul Lehman, Tom Burke, and Gail Benson.

The White-winged Crossbills discovered in August in Sullivan County continued at the Parksville/Cooley Road Bog. A fledgling with a pair of adults was found on 14 September. On 12 November a single bird passed the Chestnut Ridge Hawk Watch. This was followed by more and more sightings. Back in Sullivan County large flocks were now being seen, with up to 80 on Brown Settlement Road in Livingston Manor and in other near-by areas.

The only Red Crossbill report was that of two in Wilson State Park, Bearsville, on 23 November. There were large movements of Pine Siskins over the area hawkwatches beginning on 13 October. Cameron Rutt and Tait Johansson at the Chestnut Ridge hawkwatch counted/estimated the groups of flyby siskins, reaching a final tally of 2,524 birds. Altogether, 73 flocks were noted, with flock sizes ranging from two to 133 individuals. Among the more noteworthy flocks were two groups of 90, one of 85, two of 80, and one of 75. The average flock, though, was about 35 birds strong. Siskins continued flying until shortly after 5:00 PM EDT, with a flock of 90 at 5:05 and three birds at 5:20. The site's second major push occurred 20 October and totaled 1,261 birds in 62 flocks. The following day the tally was 1,389 in 53 flocks. That brought the count up to 6,600 for those 11 days.

Other notable species include Cackling Goose, Cattle Egret, American Golden-Plover, Caspian Tern, Black Skimmer, Snowy Owl, Connecticut Warbler, Lapland Longspur, Blue Grosbeak, and Dickcissel.

## CONTRIBUTORS

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## ABBREVIATIONS

CPP – Croton Pt P; EGR – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary; HW – hawkwatch; MC – Marshlands Conservancy, RNC – Rye Nature Center, SGNWR – Shawangunk Grasslands NWR.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

**Ross's x Snow Goose:** Round Pd 24 Nov (CV, BB, DF).

**Cackling Goose:** Millbrook 9 Nov (AP).

**Mute Swan:** 47 Saugerties Lighthouse 9 Nov (SC).

**Wood Duck:** 1537 Bashakill 25 Sep (RD, RS, JMari, JC, DH); 1803 Bashakill 2 Oct (RD, RS, RB).

**Blue-winged Teal:** 3 Tarrytown Res 1 Sep (EM); 2 MC 16 Sep.

**N. Shoveler:** arr MC 24 Sep.

**Green-winged Teal:** 25 Humpo Marsh, New Paltz 16 Oct (CG).

**Redhead:** Esopus Meadows 16 Nov.

**Ring-necked Duck:** 125 Strauss Marsh 14 Nov; 119 Red Wing P, East Fishkill 27 Nov.

**Greater Scaup:** arr Lake Superior P 25 Oct; 600 EGR 26.

**Lesser Scaup:** 50 EGR 18.

**King Eider:** Piermont Pier 23-30 Nov (DC, CWeb, A&DW).

**White-winged Scoter:** Twin Island L, Pine Plains 23 Oct (CP); 4 Neversink Res 30 Oct (JH, AB); Twin Island L, Pine Plains 23 Oct (CP); 4 Saugerties Lighthouse 9 Nov (SC); EGR 16 Nov.

**Black Scoter:** 38 Kiamesha L 22 Oct (JH); 21 Neversink Res 22 Oct (JH); 12 Neversink Res 30 Oct (JH); Yankee L 30 Oct (JH, AB).

**Long-tailed Duck:** 2 EGR 29 Oct; 3 Yankee L 30 Oct (JH, AB); Norrie Pt 16 Nov (CV); 20 EGR 16 Nov.

**Bufflehead:** arr 17 Oct.

**Com. Goldeneye:** arr Yankee L 23 Oct (JH); 23 Yankee L 22 Nov (JH, AB, LV).

**Hooded Merganser:** arr Twin Island L, Pine Plains 23 Oct (CP).

**Com. Merganser:** 450 Superior L 22 Nov (JH, AB, LV).

**Red-breasted Merganser:** Denning Pt 10 Sep (TM), early.

**Ruddy Duck:** arr MC 24 Sep; 31 Thompson Pd 8 Oct; 94 Lake Walton 30 Oct.

**N. Bobwhite:** Wurtsboro 23 Sep (AB).

**Red-throated Loon:** 6 EGR 25 Oct.

**Horned Grebe:** 8 Ashokan Res 11 Nov.

**N. Gannet:** 3 EGR 25 Oct; 15 EGR 16 Nov (TB, GB, PL).

**Great Cormorant:** 4 EGR 11 Nov; Norrie Pr 16 Nov.

**Cattle Egret:** Tilly Foster Farm, Carmel 13 Nov (BW).

**Turkey Vulture:** 214 Summitville 7 Oct (JH).

### HAWKS – ALCIDS

**SWALLOW-TAILED KITE:** Hook Mt 8 Sep (CWei).

**Osprey:** 31 Chestnut Ridge 3 Sep; Esopus Bend Nature Preserve 9 Nov (SC); Poughquag 9 Nov (CP, HT).

**Bald Eagle:** 36 Lenoir Nature Preserve 26 Sep (BD, EH).

**N. Goshawk:** Kingston Point 13 Oct; Parksville Rd bog 19 Oct (LV); Summitville Hawkwatch 23 Oct (JH).

**Broad-winged Hawk:** 1332 Chestnut Ridge 16 Sep; 4222 Mt Peter 16 Sep; 3564 Mt Peter 17 Sep; 1043 Mt Peter 18 Sep; 5473 Chestnut Ridge 18 Sep.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** 2 Horseshoe L Rd 1 Oct (KC); Summitville HW 7 Oct (JH); Millerton 9 Nov; 3 Black Dirt region 22 Nov (JV); Rhinebeck 23, 29 Nov.

**Golden Eagle:** Bard Coll 17 Sep; Mt Peter 18 Sep; Summitville HW 1 Oct (JH); Hook Mt 11 Oct; Trapps HW, Shawangunks 4 Oct; 2 Hook Mt 19 Oct; Chestnut Ridge 23 Oct; Mt Peter 24 Oct; Lenoir 30 Oct; Sullivan Co HW 30 Oct; Hook Mt 30 Oct; Forsyth Nature Center, Kingston 10 Nov; Mt Peter 2, 9, 16 Nov.

**Com. Moorhen:** 9 juv Bashakill 7 Sep (JH).

**Black-bellied Plover:** MC 2 Sep; 11 MC 1, 2 Oct; 8 MC 4 Nov.

**American Golden-Plover:** 1 MC 4, 8 Sep; 2 MC 5 Sep; EGR 5 Oct (TB).

**Semipalmated Plover:** 10 MC 5 Sep.

**Am. Oystercatcher:** 5 MC 5 Sep.

**Greater Yellowlegs:** 6 MC 24 Sep.

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** 4 MC 10 Sep.

**Ruddy Turnstone:** Chelsea Yacht Club 17, 19 Sep (DF), 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> DUTC records; 2 EGR 5 Oct, 5 Nov.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** 3 MC 4 Sep.

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** MC 4 Sep.

**Pectoral sandpiper:** MC 24 Sep.

**Purple Sandpiper:** Piermont Pier 24 Nov (DC, CWeb, A&DW); 15 EGR 27 Nov.

**Dunlin:** Piermont Pier 24, 26 Nov (DC, CWeb, A&DW); 2 MC 4 Nov.

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** MC 5 Sep.

**Laughing Gull:** 50 MC 16 Oct.

**Iceland Gull:** Chestnut Ridge 23 Oct (CRu); EGR 25 Oct; Monticello Apollo Plaza 30 Oct, 26 Nov (JH AB); Kiamasha L 30 Oct (JH).  
**Caspian Tern:** 2 EGR 5 Oct (TB).  
**Forster's Tern:** 4 EGR 9 Sep; 36 EGR 26 Oct; 18 EGR 1 Nov.  
**Black Skimmer:** MC 1 Oct.

#### PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

**Monk Parakeet:** 8 MC 16 Sep.  
**Snowy Owl:** Poughkeepsie 6 Nov.  
**Long-eared Owl:** Stone Ridge 15 Oct (JMark).  
**Short-eared Owl:** 10 Black Dirt region 22 Nov (JV); SGNWR 24 Nov (RT).  
**N. Saw-whet Owl:** Fir Brook 18 Oct (LV); Parksville Rd 19 Oct (LV); 9 Summitville fire tower 20 Oct (JH, AB, LV); 7 banded at Cape Pond 24 Oct (VF, RD, MC).  
**RUFUS HUMMINGBIRD:** adult male Clarkstown 24 Sep – 10 Oct, 26 Oct, 10 Nov, *intro*.  
**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** 42 Chestnut Ridge 15 Sep (TJ, CRu).  
**Red-headed Woodpecker:** 2 Humpo Marsh, New Paltz 4 Nov (JBNHS).

#### FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** Woodstock 8 Sep (PS); MC 10 Sep.  
**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** MC 4 Sep; Bashakill 8, 20 Sep (SB, JS).  
**Philadelphia Vireo:** 2 Bashakill 8, 11, 13, 20 Sep; Bashakill 10, 21 Sep (SB, JS); MC 18 Sep, 3 Oct; 2 Buttercup East 23 Sep (K&CF).  
**Com. Raven:** 17 Summitville Hawkwatch 8 Oct (JH).  
**Horned Lark:** 20 Red Hook 16 Nov.  
**CAVE SWALLOW:** MC 9 Nov (TB); 2 EGR 16 Nov (TB, GB, PL).  
**Marsh Wren:** 2 MC 24 Sep.  
**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** Esopus Bend Nature Preserve, Saugerties 9 Nov (SC).  
**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** Bashakill 20 to 22 Sep (SB LV); Bashakill 1 Oct (SB).  
**Am. Pipit:** 8 Neversink Res 11 Oct (LV); 7 Monticello landfill 25 Oct (JH, AB); 20 CPP 26 Oct (CRu, LT).

#### WARBLERS

**"Brewster's" Warbler:** MC 1 Sep (TB).  
**Palm Warbler:** 20 CPP 11 Oct (RL).  
**Blackpoll Warbler:** CPP 26 Nov (EM).  
**Connecticut Warbler:** ad f banded Cape Pond 8 Sep (VF, MC).  
**Yellow-br. Chat:** MC 10 Sep, 18, 20 Nov.

#### TANAGERS – WEAVERS

**Am. Tree Sparrow:** arr 12 Esopus Bend Nature Preserve 20 Nov.  
**Vesper Sparrow:** 3 Stony Kill 24 Sep (SG); 2 Rockefeller SP 11 Oct (EM); Rhinebeck 11 Oct; CPP 16 Oct (EM); Stony Kill 18 Oct; CPP 18 Oct (CRo); Bethel 25 Oct (JH, AB); 2 CPP 26 Oct (CRu, LT).  
**Savannah Sparrow:** 50 CPP 25 Oct (CRu, LT).  
**Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow:** 7 MC 16 Oct; 10 MC 21 Oct; 3 MC 4 Nov.  
**Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow:** MC 15, 21 Oct.  
**Seaside Sparrow:** 2 MC 16 Oct.  
**Song Sparrow:** 50 CPP 25 Oct (CRu, LT).  
**Swamp Sparrow:** 150 CPP 25 Oct (CRu, LT).  
**White-crowned Sparrow:** 5 Stony Kill 4, 18 Oct; New Paltz 7, 14 Oct (CWei, LB); 11 Peach Hill 11 Oct; Wolf Brook MUA 11 Oct (SB); few CPP 16 Oct (EV); 3 CPP 25 Oct (CRu, LT); Stony Kill 2, 17 Nov; 2 LaGrange 23 Nov.  
**Lapland Longspur:** Rhinebeck 2 Nov (MP); EGR 18 Nov (TB).  
**Snow Bunting:** 2 Hunter Rd 19 Oct (LV); Lake Minnewaska, Minnewaska SP 22 Oct (ARS); 8 CPP 26 Oct (CRu, LT); 5 Callicoon Center 31 Oct (RD); 22 Immigrant's Way, East Kingston 1 Nov (PS); 200 East basin Ashokan Res 2 Nov (PS); 4 SGNWR 4 Nov; 38 EGR 18 Nov; 12 Delaware Twp 22 Nov (JH, AB, LV); 2 Piermont Pier 26 Nov (AW).  
**Blue Grosbeak:** CPP 16 Oct (EV).  
**Dickcissel:** MC 20 Sep, 27 Oct (TB); Stony Kill 4, 7, 8 Oct (SG, RJ); CPP 18 Oct (CRo).  
**Bobolink:** 125 Burger Hill, Rhinebeck 13 Sep; CPP 18 Oct (CRo).  
**Rusty Blackbird:** 30 White Sulfur Springs 13 Oct (JH, AB); 20 Bashakill 26 Oct (JH, AB).  
**White-winged Crossbill:** 1-8 Parksville/Cooley Rd bog Sep thru, pair w. fledgling there 14 Sep (LV); Chestnut Ridge 12 Nov, 20 on 17 Nov, & 14 on 18 Nov (CRu); 6 Neversink Res 26 Nov; 35 Brown Settlement Rd, Livingston Manor 26 Nov & 80 there 29 Nov; num reports of small flocks, var Catskill Mt locs, ULST Nov.  
**Red Crossbill:** 2 Wilson SP, Bearsville 23 Nov (PS).  
**Pine Siskin:** 50 Horseshoe L 1 Oct (KC); 2,524 Chestnut Ridge 13 Oct (CRu, TJ); 1261 Chestnut Ridge 20 Oct (CRu); 1389 Chestnut Ridge 21 Oct; 50 Staatsburg 29 Oct; common and widespread in SULL 26 Nov; 30 Esopus Bend Nature Preserve, Saugerties 29 Nov (SC).