

REGION 9—HUDSON-DELAWARE

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The season started just after the passage of a cold front as demonstrated by the eighteen species of warblers that were found along the trails at Hook Mountain on 2 September. These included Wilson's, Blackpoll, and Tennessee. We enjoyed cool dry weather for most of the month, as September came in 1° cooler than normal with only 1.6" of rain. October had near normal temperatures and was slightly wetter than average. A nor'easter, born from the remnants of Tropical Storm Ida, just missed the Region on 13-14 November. It did bring a flooding storm surge into Long Island Sound and up into the Hudson River. November averaged much warmer than normal due to the lack of any cold spells, and it was very wet. It was 4.6° warmer, and 2 inches more than normal rain fell.

On 10 November, between 9 and 10 AM, Carol Weiss spotted a grebe south of Piermont Pier, a large black and white grebe which looked too large to be a horned grebe. The chin and the front of the neck were white and the back of the neck and the nape and the crown of the head were sharply black. The black came across the face and covered the eye. She returned the next day with a camera, scope and field guide, and confirmed that the grebe was indeed a Western Grebe, a first record for Rockland County. Many people were fortunate to see the grebe on the 12th and 13th, as it disappeared during the strong nor'easter on the 14th. Birders that day were greeted by a Horned Grebe off the pier. A Western Grebe appeared Sunday the 15th off New Jersey and may be the same bird.

Melissa Gillmer and Jen Conrad rescued a "loon" on 29 November that had been clipped by a motorcyclist on Tiorati Brook Rd. about a mile east and downhill of the Tiorati dam in Harriman State Park. It turned out to be a juvenile Northern Gannet, likely blown inland during the windy weather the day before. It appeared to be in decent health and recovered at the Raptor Trust in NJ, after which it was ready for release.

Record Bald Eagle numbers sweetened Mount Peter's 52nd annual fall hawk watch. With the steady increase each year in both breeding pairs in the Region and wintering numbers, it's not too surprising that most hawk watches had record totals for Bald Eagles this season: Chestnut Ridge 64, Hook Mountain 125, Lenoir 77, and Mt. Peter 45.

Broad-winged Hawks peaked on two days at two of our hawk watches, but at a different date pair for each. Mt. Peter's big days were 16 and 18 September, and Hook Mt.'s were the 15th and 20th. The Summitville and Lenoir watches each peaked only on 18 September.

Allan Spivack and Joan Mastero observed a Purple Sandpiper on the rock jetty immediately south of the Saugerties Lighthouse on 28 November for Ulster County's first record.

Mark DeDea reported two Eurasian Collared-Doves at the Forsyth Nature Center, Kingston, on 4 October. With the increase in sightings in the northeast and an accepted record by NYSARC from Orange County in 2003, these may not have been escapes. A very late Yellow Warbler was reported from Marshlands Conservancy in Rye by Tom Burke on 16 November. Carol Weiss counted 300 Rusty Blackbird passing over Hook Mountain on 9 November.

A note on two birds not seen in the Region: Two Mississippi Kites, an adult and an immature, passed over the Quaker Ridge Hawkwatch in Connecticut just outside Westchester County on 14 October. The birds were moving southwest towards the county but were either not seen or not reported by anyone from this Region.

CONTRIBUTORS

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70 *The Kingbird* 2010 March; 60 (1)

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ABBREVIATIONS

CPP – Croton Point Park; EGR – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary; LNP – Lenoir Nature Preserve; MC – Marshlands Conservancy; RNC – Rye Nature Center; SGNWR – Shawangunk Grasslands National Wildlife Refuge.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: 2 CPP 18 Sep; 2000 Hook Mt 13 Oct.

Brant: 106 MC 26 Nov.

Wood Duck: 1584 Bashakill 24 Sep; 2106 Bashakill 1 Oct.

Gadwall: arr Stonykill 1 Oct; 8 EGR 26 Oct.

Am. Wigeon: arr 3 Kiamesha L 3 Oct; 2 EGR 26 Oct.

N. Pintail: arr 4 Thompson Pd 7 Oct; MC 17 Oct; 8 Pine Plains 3 Nov; 10 Pine Plains 20 Nov; 15 Thompson Pd 26 Nov.

Green-winged Teal: 4 CPP 9 Sep.

Redhead: 2 Mill Dam Pond, Stone Ridge 8 Nov.

Ring-necked Duck: arr 8 Union Vale 5 Oct; 150 Union Vale 1 Nov; 126 Stanford 10 Nov (AP); 4 Wappinger Creek 15 Nov.

Greater Scaup: arr 6 EGR 17 Oct; 5500 EGR 26 Nov.

Lesser Scaup: arr CPP 7 Oct; 60 EGR 31 Oct; 50 River Rd, Esopus 21 Nov; 1500 EGR 19,26 Nov.

White-winged Scoter: Piermont Pier 24 Oct (CW, DC); 12 East Fishkill 24 Oct(B&AM); 10 EGR 26 Nov.

Black Scoter: 16 Neversink Res 16, 17 Oct (LV,JH); 50 Halcyon L, Pine Plains 24 Oct (DKo,AJ,BB); 30 Abel's pond, Union Vale 24 Oct (BB); 20 Millbrook 24 Oct; 12 Redwing Pond, Beekman 24 Oct (BB); 42 Rhinebeck 25 Oct.

Long-tailed Duck: CPP 8, 12, 14 Nov (KB, Cl); Chelsea 16, 30 Nov (RJ); 10 River Rd, Esopus 21 Nov (JBNHS).

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Bufflehead: 58 EGR 7 Nov.

Com. Goldeneye: arr 4 Yankee L 31 Oct.

Hooded Merganser: arr 10 Strauss Marsh 25 Oct; 41 EGR 7 Nov.

Com. Merganser: arr 7 Salt Pt 15 Oct.

Red-breasted Merganser: arr 2 Wappingers L 25 Oct; 8 EGR 7 Nov; 20 EGR 26 Nov.

Ruddy Duck: arr 8 Swan L 17 Oct; 83 L Oniad, Wappinger 7 Nov.

Ring-necked Pheasant: Washington 29 Oct; MC 16 Nov.

Ruffed Grouse: 2 Poughkeepsie 4 Nov.

Red-throated Loon: 5 EGR 14, 24 Nov.

Com. Loon: 2 CPP 2 Sep (KB); 3 EGR 7 Nov.

Horned Grebe: Kiamesha L 16 Oct (LV); 3 Ashokan Res 7 Nov (JBNHS); Piermont Pier 14 Nov (CW).CPP 19 Nov (CL).

Red-necked Grebe: Ashokan Res 7 Nov (JBNHS).

WESTERN GREBE: Piermont Pier 10-13 Nov (CW).

N. Gannet: Harriman SP 29 Dec (EM, MGi, JCo), 3rd Rockland record, *intro*; 5 EGR 7, 24 Nov; MC 17 Nov; 7 EGR 25 Nov.

Great Cormorant: arr Norrie Pt 15 Nov.

Great Egret: 5 MC 4, 6 Oct; CPP 7 Oct; 2 MC 2 Nov.

Snowy Egret: Brockway 18 Sep; 6 MC 10 Oct; CPP 9 Oct; 2 MC 19 Oct; MC 3 Nov.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 9 EGR 30 Sep.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: Rhinebeck 11 Oct (RJ).

Black Vulture: 21 Millbrook School 24 Nov.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: 34 Mt Peter 16 Sep; CPP 31 Oct; 2 Piermont Pier 1 Nov; Twin Lakes, Eastchester 17-22 Nov; L Stahahe, Harriman SP 21,22 Nov (JV).

Bald Eagle: 19 Hook Mt 19 Sep; 14 LNP 19 Sep; 12 LNP 10 Oct; record totals for the hawk watches for the season included: Chestnut Ridge 64, Hook Mountain 125, Lenoir 77, and Mt Peter 45.

N. Harrier: 6 SGNWR 21 Nov.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 101 Mt Peter 10 Oct.

Broad-winged Hawk: 1411 Hook Mt 15 Sep; 920 Summitville 15 Sep; 1297 Mt Peter 16 Sep; 1312 Mt Peter 18 Sep; 748 Summitville 18 Sep; 1058 LNP 18 Sep; 2074 Hook Mt (500 in one kettle) 20 Sep.

Red-tailed Hawk: 129 Mt Peter 6 Nov; partial albino Pine I 15 Nov.

Rough-legged Hawk: Chestnut Ridge 1 Nov; Hook Mt 2 Nov; Esopus Bend Nature Preserve 29 Nov.

Golden Eagle: Summitville 10 Oct; 3 Summitville 11(JH); Oct; MC 17 Oct; 2 Hook Mt 29 Oct (SSc, JG); Mt Peter 12, 23, 25 Oct 10 Nov.

Am. Kestrel: 36 Mt Peter 13 Sep.

Peregrine Falcon: many scattered reports.

Clapper Rail: 2 MC 21 Sep, 4 Oct.

Virginia Rail: 7 Ferncliff Forest, Rhinebeck 2 Sep.

Sora: Thompson Pd 7 Oct.

Am. Golden-Plover: 9 Skinners Lane, Pine Island 12 Sep (CM, RSt, WH).

Semipalmated Plover: MC 21 Sep.

Killdeer: 28 MC 5 Oct.

Am. Oystercatcher: MC 18 Sep; EGR 3 Oct.

Greater Yellowlegs: 7 MC 20 Sep.

Lesser Yellowlegs: 20 Montgomery 12 Sep.

Hudsonian Godwit: Skinners Lane, Pine Island 12 Sep (CM, RSt, WH); Oil City Road, Pine Island 12 Sep (CM, RSt, WH), possibly the same bird.

Least Sandpiper: 30 Montgomery 12 Sep.

Pectoral Sandpiper: 4 Montgomery 12 Sep; 10 Bashakill 30 Sep; MC 16, 17 Oct.

Purple Sandpiper: 8 EGR 19 Nov; Saugerties Lighthouse 28 Nov (AS, JM), 1st record ULST.

Dunlin: Monticello 18, 19 Oct (JH,LV).

Stilt Sandpiper: 3 Oil City Road, Pine Island 12 Sep (CM, RSt, WH); Montgomery 12 Sep (CM, RSt, WH).

Short-billed Dowitcher: Oil City Road, Pine Island 12 Sep (CM, RSt, WH).

Bonaparte's Gull: 2 CPP 8 Oct (JCI); Kingston Point Beach 8 Nov (MD).

Laughing Gull: 40 EGR 27 Sep; 50 MC 6 Oct; 12 EGR 25 Oct; 5 EGR 20 Nov.

Iceland Gull: Monticello 29 Oct (JH).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Beacon Waterfront Park 9 Nov (DR).

Forster's Tern: 2 Rye 17 Oct.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Eurasian Collared-Dove: 2 Forsyth Nature Center, Kingston 4 Oct (MD), escapes?

Barn Owl: Fishkill 2, 8 Nov (PSa,ES).

Snowy Owl: Wappingers Falls 15 Nov (BF), photo.

Short-eared Owl: arr SGNWR 29 Nov.

N. Saw-whet Owl: 5 Youngsville 8 Oct (RD); Stanford 17 Oct (K&CF).

Com. Nighthawk: 150 Harriman 3 Sep; 21 MC 18 Sep.

Red-headed Woodpecker: LNP 1, 25,29 Sep; Chestnut Ridge Hawkwatch 25 Sep; 3 Chestnut Ridge Hawkwatch 1 Oct; Rockefeller SP 4, 8, 9 Nov; 2 ad & 3 imm Humpo Marsh 3, 8, 21 Nov.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 8 LNP 11 Oct.

N. Flicker: 35 LNP 11 Oct.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: 2 Mt Peter 1 Sep; Mt Peter 5, 9 Sep.

E. Wood-Pewee: 14 Ferncliff Forest, Rhinebeck 2 Sep.

N. Shrike: West Saugerties Rd, Woodstock 8 Nov (PSc).

White-eyed Vireo: Gardiner 4 Nov (BH).

Philadelphia Vireo: East Kingston 7, 27 (MD,PSc); Wurtsboro 7 Sep (SB,JH); 3 East Kingston 12 Sep (MD); Stewart State Forest, Montgomery 12 Sep (CM, RSt, WH); Bashakill 12, 13 Sep (SB,JH); Verbank 19 Sep (BB); CPP 9 Oct (CR, JD).

Am. Crow: 20-25,000 old Delaval site, Poughkeepsie 21 Nov (CV).

Fish Crow: 20 Dennings Pt 28 Nov.

Horned Lark: 50 Red Hook 10 Nov.

Tree Swallow: 170 EGR 18 Oct.

Marsh Wren: 3 EGR 6 Oct; Thompson Pd 6 Oct (CV).

E. Bluebird: 12 SGNWR 21 Nov.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: Bashakill 14 Sep (SB).

Gray Catbird: 20 MC 5 Oct.

Am. Pipit: 4 CPP 12 Sep; 50 Washington 1 Oct; 60 Vassar Farm 5 Oct; 30 Southlands Horse Farm, Rhinebeck 17 Oct; 15 CPP 17 Oct; 28 Bashakill 17 Oct; 30 SGNWR 21 Nov; 18 Northeast 24.

Cedar Waxwing: 610 MC 10 Nov (TB).

WARBLERS

Orange-crowned Warbler: MC 20 Oct, 10,16 Nov; EGR 26 Nov.

Nashville Warbler: 20 LNP 25 Sep; 4 CPP 13 Oct.

Yellow Warbler: Saugerties Lighthouse Trail 26 Sep (SC), late; MC 16 Nov (TB), very late.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: 7 LNP 25 Sep.

Magnolia Warbler: 24 East Kingston 7 Sep (MD); 10 LNP 25 Sep.

Cape May Warbler: White Plains 8 Sep; CPP 9 Oct.

Black-throated Green Warbler: 24 East Kingston 7 Sep (MD); 25 LNP 25 Sep.

Palm Warbler: 50 LNP 25 Sep; 50 CPP 9 Oct.

Bay-breasted Warbler: East Kingston 7 Sep; Bashakill 12 Sep.

N. Waterthrush: Bronxville 8 Oct.

Connecticut Warbler: Reese Park, T of Wappinger 6 Sep (KH); banded Cary IES 16 Sep (CW).

Mourning Warbler: LNP 1 Sep; Stewart State Forest, Montgomery 12 Sep.

Com. Yellowthroat: 18 MC 5 Oct; 15 CPP 9 Oct.

Wilson's Warbler: MC 20 Oct.

Yellow-breasted Chat: MC 17-19 Sep (TB).

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Rockland L SP15 Oct.

Vesper Sparrow: Benedict Park, Montgomery 11 Oct; 4 Southlands Horse Farm, Rhinebeck

17 Oct; Bashakill 17 Oct; 2 CPP 22 Oct; 2 SGNWR 24, 25 Oct.

Savannah Sparrow: 20 LNP 25 Sep; 20 CPP 10 Oct.

Nelson's Sparrow: 2 MC 4, 6 Oct (MB, BV, PO); Southlands Horse Farm, Rhinebeck 17, 20-31 Oct (PSc, MD, CM, CV, BB); 4 MC 21 Oct.

Saltmarsh Sparrow: 2 MC 4 Oct.

Fox Sparrow: arr Southlands Horse Farm, Rhinebeck 17 Oct.

Lincoln's Sparrow: MC 26 Sep, 5, 6, 20 Oct; 2 CPP 7 Oct; CPP 9 Oct; 3 Benedict Park, Montgomery 11 Oct.

Swamp Sparrow: 50 CPP 10 Oct; 50 MC 20 Oct.

White-throated Sparrow: Red Hook 16 Sep.

White-crowned Sparrow: many scattered reports; 10 CPP 16 Oct.

Dark-eyed Junco: arr MC 17 Oct.

Snow Bunting: few CPP 27, 31 Oct; 2 Bashakill 29 Oct; 4 Piermont Pier 31 Oct; Mohonk Preserve 31 Oct; 5 East Kingston 31 Oct; 6 Piermont Pier 1 Nov.

Dickcissel: f CPP 22, 25 Oct (CR, LT).

Bobolink: 19 Stonykill 12 Spt.

Red-winged Blackbird: 2000 MC 3 Nov.

Rusty Blackbird: 5 Mt Peter 8 Oct; 300 Hook Mt 9 Nov (CW).

Com. Grackle: 1000 Hook Mt 19 Oct (CW).

Pine Siskin: Roosevelt Cove 11 Oct (DKr); 4 MC 16 Nov.