

REGION 9—HUDSON – DELAWARE

Michael Bochnik

70 Hutchinson Boulevard, Mt Vernon, NY 10552
BochnikM@cs.com

The after-effects of Hurricane/Tropical Storm *Irene*, which hit late in the summer season, lingered well into September. Both Forster's and Common Terns lingered in the Hudson River for the first part of the season after being chased up river by the storm. The rains left the Black Dirt Region of Orange County under water but led to great shore birding habitat. Twenty-six species were found in the county. The flooding returned as the season started with the remnants of Tropical Storm *Lee* soaking the area with 6.5-7.0" of rain from 6-8 September. Passages of two cold fronts on 15 September led to a great weekend of birding for both hawks and passerines. The month ended with a total 10-11.4" of rain and was 3.5° to 3.8° F warmer than average. Most of October was also wet and warm, with temperatures 1.3° to 3.4° above normal and with nearly 5" of precipitation. Late October saw an abrupt change to cold wintery weather, with a record breaking nor'easter dumping 6-21" inches of snow on the entire Region on 29 October. Snow fall totals were highest north and west and with higher elevation. Tree damage was heavy and widespread due to the heavy wet snow and foliage still on the trees. The town of Harriman saw 16", where Mount Vernon saw 6". It looked like we would have a long winter, but the warm weather quickly returned. Poughkeepsie hit a high of 70° on 11 November. Less rain was seen totaling only 3". Temperatures averaged 4.6° warmer than normal.

Deborah and Lee Hunter discovered a **PINK-FOOTED GOOSE** with a small flock of Canada Geese on the grass a local bank on 15 November, on the corner of Schutt Road Extension and Dunning Road in Middletown. It was found later the same day behind another bank off of Schutt Road and continued in the area the next day. The bird was then not relocated until 21 November, this time at the intersection of Carmelight Drive and Waywayonder. The elusive bird was again seen 25 November. This is a first record for Orange County and at least one NYSARC was report submitted.

Terry Hardy photographed a banded Double-crested Cormorant in Beacon on 4 October. This cormorant was banded by Dave Capen on Young Island in Lake Champlain as an adult in 2003. An immature **BROWN PELICAN** that was present for a few weeks in Connecticut ventured south and was seen at the Edith G. Read Sanctuary in Rye on 13 November. The bird appeared here again on the 20th. This would be the second record for Westchester County.

Large numbers of Broad-winged Hawks passed the hawk watch sites on 16 & 17 September. Chestnut Ridge reported over 2,500 on 16 September and 9,655 the next day. Hook Mountain surpassed those numbers with 14,670 Hook Mt. on the 17th.

On 9 October, Drew Ciganek heard two Sandhill Cranes barking and watched them jump out of the Tallman Marsh in Rockland County and fly away to the north. Tait Johansson reported four Sandhill Cranes seen flying north and low from the Chestnut Ridge Hawkwatch platform, Bedford on 17 November. On the same day Doreen Beebe saw one on the west side of the NYS Thruway in the Town of Ulster.

The farms in black dirt region of Orange County were inundated by flooding in early September. Shorebirds in the thousands stopped in the flooded fields making for discoveries almost daily at this newly created shorebird hotspot. The event produced many new county records. The reports started slowly, with unusual birds for the county such as a few White-rumped Sandpipers and a pair of Stilt Sandpipers on 3 September. A few days later unprecedented numbers of White-rumped Sandpiper were being found. As more birders searched the area more rarities were discovered. On 9 September, John Haas found Orange County's first record of Willet on Turtle Bay Road, New Hampton. As other people arrived to see the bird Rob Stone found a hatch year Red Knot at the same location, also a first Orange County record. John Haas also found four Hudsonian Godwits in Pine Island, Orange County on 15 September. They relocated later in the day to Skinners Lane in Goshen. Peter Schoenberger and Susan Rogers found a Whimbrel while kayaking on the Hudson River on 2 September. The bird was working the water chestnut just south of Saugerties lighthouse in Saugerties, Ulster County. Barry Babcock found a phalarope on Skinner Lane in Orange County on 7 September. After much discussion, Rob Stone, John Haas and others determined the bird to be a **RED PHALAROPE**, a first record for Orange County. Photos were obtained by John Haas. The bird continued to the following day. At least one NYSARC report was submitted by Ken McDermott. A second Red Phalarope was found by Steve Chorvas at Greig Farm, Red Hook in Dutchess County on 10 October. There were also sightings of Red-necked Phalarope in the area on 8 & 15 September.

A female **RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD** appeared at Mountainville on 15 October and was seen by many. Excellent photos were taken by Curt McDermott. The bird remained through 9 November. A report was filed with NYSARC. Another **RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD** appeared at the Lenoir Nature Preserve in Yonkers, Westchester County. This immature female was first observed on 6 November by Bill Van Wart at a feeder behind the Lenoir Mansion where Hudson River Audubon Society conducts a part-time hawk watch. It was later found coming to one of the three feeders inside the butterfly garden. It also preferred some blooming pineapple sage that flowers late into the fall. This is the fourth time in eleven years that this species occurred at the garden. The bird was seen daily until 25 November, when a second hummingbird appeared, an immature male Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Both appeared daily until the end of the fall season. The Rufous Hummingbird continued into December. Robert Yunick captured, banded, and measured both birds on 30 November and confirmed the species and sex of each and that both were hatch-year birds. NYSARC reports were submitted.

A **NORTHERN WHEATEAR** was found by Christopher Letts and confirmed by Charlie Roberto at the southern end of the Croton Train Station, Croton-on-Hudson on 6 September. Many observers were able to see it before nightfall. Fortunately it remained another two days affording more people an opportunity to observe it. This is Westchester County's fourth record. A second **NORTHERN WHEATEAR** was discovered on 7 October by Rob Stone just north of Oil City Road at the Wallkill Wildlife Management Area. It remained until at least the 9th. This is another first record for Orange County. A NYSARC report was submitted.

Jim Clinton reported 15 species of warblers along with a Philadelphia Vireo and a Lincoln's Sparrow at the Bashakill on 17 September. He later found a Yellow-breasted Chat at Vassar Farm in Dutchess County. Peter Schoenberger photographed an *Ammodramus* sparrow at Greig Farm in Red Hook. After posting it to the internet it was identified as a **LE CONTE'S SPARROW**. Bill Elrick found a Lark Sparrow on Indiana Rd, Goshen on 15 September. A NYSARC report was submitted.

Other notable species reported this season include: Cackling Goose in Westchester and Ulster Counties, Eurasian Wigeon, a drake Barrow's Goldeneye at Edith G. Read Preserve, Northern Bobwhite in Chelsea, Baird's Sandpiper at four locations, Royal Terns in Piermont and Croton Point--rare on the Hudson River, early Northern Shrikes in Orange and Sullivan Counties, Connecticut Warblers, and a few Dickcissels.

CONTRIBUTORS

John Askildsen, Seth Ausubel, Barry Babcock, Scott & Paula Baldinger, Rob Bate, Gertrude Battaly, Alan Beebe, Doreen Beebe, Michael Bochnik, Frank Bonanno, Arlene Borko, Lynn Bowdery, Tom Burke, Steve Chorvas, Drew Ciganek, Jim Clinton, Ron Conzo, Renee Davis, Mark DeDea, Jacob Drucker, Bill Elrick, Andrew Farnsworth, Dana Fazzino, Larry Federman, Tom Fiore, Rich Fried, Dan Furbish, Joe Giunta, Steve Golladay, Frank Guida, Tim Guida, Dannielle Gustafson, Richard Guthrie, John Haas, Terry Hardy, Ken Harris, Nathaniel Hernandez, Lynne Hertzog, Lee Hunter, Kate and Charlie Hyden, Tait Johansson, Peter Johnson, Rodney Johnson, Maha Katnani, Doug Kock, Debri Kral, Christopher Letts, Bob Lewis, Lewis Lolya, Michael Lolya, Ryan MacLean, Evan Mark, Christine McCluskey, Betsy McCully, Curt McDermott, Ken McDermott, Danny Messina, Doris Metraux, Barbara & Allan Michelin, Shai Mitra, Frank Murphy, Linda Pistolesi, Carena Pooth, Adrienne Popko, Deborah Powell, Charlie Roberto, Susan Rogers, Jim Schlickenrider, Peter Schoenberger, Robert Slechts, Ed Spaeth, Dave Spangenburg, Laura Steadman, Rob Stone, Ralph Tabor, Margie Turin, Benjamin Van Doren, Bill Van Wart, Lance Verderame, Chet Vincent, Carol Weiss, Rosemarie Widmer, Robert Yunick.

ABBREVIATIONS

CPP – Croton Point Park; CIES – Cary Institute for Ecological Studies; EGR – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary; MC – Marshlands Conservancy; MLR – Mission Land Road, Pine Island; PP – Piermont Pier; RNC – Rye Nature Center; SGNWR – Shawangunk Grasslands NWR; SkL – Skinner Lane, Goshen; Stony Kill – Stony Kill Farm Environmental Education Center; TBR – Turtle Bay Road, New Hampton.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE: Middletown 15-16,21,25 Nov (DP,LHu,KM,DaM,CuM), 1st ORAN record.

Greater White-fronted Goose: outside Middletown 16 Nov (KM).

CACKLING GOOSE (R9): MC 17 Oct (AF); 3 Kingston 5 Nov (MD).

Wood Duck: low numbers at Bashakill due to flooding.

Eurasian Wigeon: Rockland Lake, early Nov.

Blue-winged Teal: 400 Wallkill NWR 25 Sep.

Green-winged Teal: 150 Wallkill NWR 25 Sep.

Ring-necked Duck: arr 4 Mashomak 14 Oct.

Greater Scaup: 5 EGR 5 Nov; 2500 EGR 30 Nov.

Lesser Scaup: 6 EGR 28 Oct; 40 EGR 10 Nov.

Surf Scoter: 20 Rye 24 Nov.

White-winged Scoter: 4 EGR 29 Oct; 16 EGR 21 Nov; 2 Kiamasha Lake 23 Nov; 60 Rye 24 Nov.

Black Scoter: EGR 28 Oct; Neversink Res 5 Nov; 3 EGR 21 Nov.

Long-tailed Duck: 4 Ashokan Reservoir 5 Nov; 3 Neversink Res 5 Nov.

Barrow's Goldeneye: drake EGR 23 Nov (TB).

N. Bobwhite: pair Chelsea 7 Oct (RJ).

Ring-necked Pheasant: Buttercup West 24 Sep; CIES 24 Sep; 2 Tivoli 2 Oct.

Red-throated Loon: Yankee Lake 23 Nov; 2 Kiamasha Lake 23 Nov; 18 Rye 24 Nov.

Com. Loon: 8 EGR 21 Nov.

N. Gannet: MC 1 Nov; EGR 13,16,21,23 Nov; 9 Rye 24 Nov.

Double-crested Cormorant: Beacon 4 Oct (TH), banded, *intro*.

Great Cormorant: arr EGR 15 Oct.

BROWN PELICAN (R9): 1 imm EGR 13, 20 Nov (TB, BeV), 2nd WEST record.

Snowy Egret: 3 New Hamburg 8 Sep; 2 Norrie Point 9 Sep.

Little Blue Heron: MC 2 Sep; 2 Wallkill NWR 10 Sep.

Cattle Egret: CPP 2 Sep; Wallkill NWR 3,5,10 Sep.

Green Heron: 7 Saugerties 12 Sep.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: 102 Chestnut Ridge 30 Sep; Hook Mountain 1 Nov; Chestnut Ridge 4 Nov.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 233 Chestnut Ridge 5 Oct; 255 Hook Mountain 6 Oct.

Cooper's Hawk: 48 Chestnut Ridge 7 Oct.

Red-shouldered Hawk: 19 Hook Mt 31 Oct; 24 Chestnut Ridge 11 Nov.

Broad-winged Hawk: 2595 Chestnut Ridge 16 Sep; 9655 Chestnut Ridge 17 Sep; 14670 Hook Mt 17 Sep; 2170 Mt Peter 18 Sep.

Red-tailed Hawk: 144 Chestnut Ridge 4 Nov.

Rough-legged Hawk: CIES 25 Oct; SGNWR 26 Nov.

Golden Eagle: Lenoir Nature Preserve 16 Sep, early; Buttercup East Sanctuary 28 Sep; 4 Summitville 16 Oct; Forsyth Nature Center 28 Oct; Millbrook 28 Oct; MC 30 Oct.

Am. Kestrel: 42 Chestnut Ridge 25 Sep.

Merlin: 8 Chestnut Ridge 21 Oct.

Sandhill Crane: 2 Tallman Marsh 9 Oct (DC); Town of Ulster 17 Nov (DB); 4 Chestnut Ridge Hawkwatch 17 Nov (TJ).

Am. Golden-Plover: Kingston 3 Sep; Ascot Park, Ulster 4,5,11-13 Sep; 25 MLR 5 Sep; 20 SkL 8 Sep; 20 TBR 8 Sep; 40 Pine 1 15 Sep; MC 18,21 Sep; Ryder Pd, Amenia 23 Oct; 41 Camel Farm 6 Nov.

Killdeer: 60 MLR 3 Sep.

Am. Oystercatcher: 5 EGR 20 Sep; 2 EGR 2 Oct.

Willet: Croton Train St 7 Sep (TB); 2 TBR 9 Sep (JH, RSt, KM), 1st ORAN record.

Whimbrel: Saugerties 2, 3 Sep (PS,SR,SC,FM); MC 14 Sep (TB).

Hudsonian Godwit: 4 SkL 15 Sep (JH,KM,CM).

Ruddy Turnstone: TBR 8 Sep; SkL 14 Sep.

Red Knot: EGR 1 Sep; 1 imm TBR 9 Sep (RSt, JH), 1st ORAN record; PP 13 Sep (RM); SkL 14 Sep (DS).

Sanderling: Kingston 3 Sep; 6 TBR 8 Sep; 12 SkL 14,15 Sep.

Western Sandpiper: MLR 10 Sep (JS, MB).

Least Sandpiper: 100 MLR 3 Sep.

White-rumped Sandpiper: 3 MLR 3 Sep; 4 SkL 8 Sep; 32 MLR 8 Sep (MB); 250 TBR 8 Sep (JH).

Baird's Sandpiper: Apollo Plaza in Monticello 8 Sep (JH); TBR 8 Sep (JH); PP 13 Sep (RM); Loch Sheldrake 2 Oct (LV).

Pectoral Sandpiper: 31 SkL 8 Sep; 20 TBR 8 Sep; 22 SkL 25 Sep.

Purple Sandpiper: EGR 13 Nov.

Dunlin: Greig Farm, Red Hook 29 Oct.

Stilt Sandpiper: 2 MLR 3 Sep (LL, ML).

Buff-Breasted Sandpiper: MLR 3 Sep; 2 MLR 5 Sep; Wurtsboro Airport 8 Sep; Ascot Park, Ulster 11-13 Sep; Pine I 15 Sep.

Short-billed Dowitcher: 4 SkL 8 Sep; SkL 14 Sep.

Wilson's Snipe: 6 SkL 8 Sep; 20 SkL 14 Sep.

Red-necked Phalarope: TBR 8 Sep (RSt); Pine I 15 Sep (JH).

RED PHALAROPE (R9): SkL 7, 8 Sep (BB, RSt,JH, KM), 1st ORAN record; Greig Farm, Red Hook 8-11 Oct (SC, PS, DKr, FM, CV,JA,RM, AM), 2nd DUTC record.

Bonaparte's Gull: Rockland L 12 Oct; Kiamesha Lake 23 Nov.

Laughing Gull: Summitville Hawk Watch 29 Sep.

Caspian Tern: PP 2 Sep (MT, LPi).

Com. Tern: 2 Yonkers 7 Sep.

Forster's Tern: 25 Croton Bay 6 Sep (CR); 60 EGR 20 Sep; 44 EGR 30 Oct; 17 EGR 13 Nov.

Royal Tern: imm Piermont 2 Sep (EM); 2 CPP 7 Sep (RSI).

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Short-eared Owl: SGNWR 26 Nov.

N. Saw-whet Owl: 7 Youngsville 2 Nov, banded; 16 Westchester Com College 28-29 Oct, banded.

Com. Nighthawk: 40 Lagrangeville 3 Sep; 20 Fishkill 5 Sep; 15 Stony Pt 8 Sep.

Chimney Swift: 200 Hook Mt 9 Sep.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Lenoir Nature Preserve, Yonkers 25-30 Nov (SA,MB, RY), late.

RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD: Mountainville 15 Oct- 9 Nov (CM); Lenoir Nature Preserve, Yonkers 6-30 Nov (BiV, MB,RY); Lenoir birds caught, banded, and age and sex confirmed 30 Nov (RY), NYSARC rep submitted, *intro*.

Red-headed Woodpecker: RNC 26 Sep; 2 Weston Rd, New Paltz/Esopus 5 Nov.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Bashakill 3,23 Sep; Fishkill 21 Sep.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: MC 1, 14 Sep.

E. Phoebe: Basakill 28 Nov, late.

N. Shrike: Orange County Airport 22 Nov (DFu); Clements Road, Liberty 24, 25 Nov (JH,ABo, SB).

Yellow-throated Vireo: 14 Bashakill 17 Sep.

Philadelphia Vireo: 2 Bashakill 2 Sep; MC 16 Sep; Woodstock 16,19 Sep; Bashakill 17 Sep; Stony Kill 24 Sep; Vassar Farm 24 Sep; Bashakill 24,25 Sep, 1 Oct; Stony Kill 8 Oct.

Blue Jay: 2750 Lenoir Nature Preserve 1 Oct.

Am. Crow: 1700 Kingston 28 Oct.

Horned Lark: 75 Indiana Rd, Goshen 6 Nov.

Marsh Wren: 5 Stony Kill 25 Sep.

NORTHERN WHEATEAR: Croton Train Station 6-8 Sep (CL,CR), 4th WEST record; Wallkill WMA 7-9 Oct (RSt), 1st ORAN record.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: Bashakill 24 Sep; RNC 26 Sep; Buttercup W 5 Oct.

Am. Pipit: 4 Piermont 28 Oct; 100 Greig Farm, Red Hook 29 Oct; 8 EGR 30 Oct; 50 PP 30 Oct; 9 MC 2 Nov; 20 CPP 13 Nov.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: Greig Farm, Red Hook 10 Oct; CPP 6 Nov.

Snow Bunting: 2 Maybrook 27 Oct; 4 Kingston 29 Oct; 27 Hunter Rd 30 Oct; 6 CPP 6 Nov; 5 CPP 13 Nov; 2 Mohonk Preserve 15 Nov; 36 Neversink Res 25 Nov.

Golden-winged Warbler: Bashakill 3 Sep.

Blue-winged Warbler: Lewisboro 19 Oct.

"Brewster's" Warbler: Wappingers Falls 17.

Orange-crowned Warbler: N. Dutchess 24 Sep; Kingston 12, 16 Oct; 2 Millbrook 15 Oct.

Connecticut Warbler: CIES 24 Sep; MC 6 Oct (TB); Dennings Pt 7 Oct (DKr); MC 17 Oct (FG,TG).

Mourning Warbler: MC 19,22 Sep; FDR National Historic Site, Hyde Park 28 Sep.

Cape May Warbler: Bashakill 17 Sep; Tymor Forest P, Union Vale 23 Sep; Hook Mt 23 Sep; Bashakill 25 Sep.

Bay-breasted Warbler: Bashakill 3,17,24 Sep; Wappingers Falls 2 Oct.

Palm Warbler: 28 Galeville Town Park 14 Oct.

Yellow-breasted Chat: Rockefeller SP 7 Sep; MC 12 Sep; Vassar Farm 17 Sep; Mt Pleasant Cemetery 25 Sep.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr CPP 13 Nov.

Clay-colored Sparrow: 2 Stony Kill 24 Sep (BeV); Fishkill 25 Sep (SM); Stony Kill 8 Oct (KHa).

Vesper Sparrow: 2 Vassar Farm 17 Sep; 1-3 Greig Farm, Red Hook 10 Oct; Stony Kill 15,22 Oct; Bashakill 17 Oct; Livingston Manor 23 Oct; Ulster 28 Oct; Rockland L 26 Oct; MLR 6 Nov; 2 CPP 6 Nov.

LARK SPARROW (9): Indiana Rd, Goshen 15 Sep (BE, KM), NYSARC rep submitted.

Grasshopper Sparrow: Stony Kill 24 Sep; Hunter Rd 30 Oct, feeding with Savannah Sparrow after snow storm.

LE CONTE'S SPARROW: Greig Farm, Red Hook 9, 10 Oct (PS-ph, DKo).

Nelson's Sparrow: MC 4 Oct; Greig Farm, Red Hook 10, 11 Oct; 6 MC 10 Oct; 3 MC 31 Oct; MC 1 Nov.

Lincoln's Sparrow: Bashakill 17 Sep.

White-crowned Sparrow: many reports in Oct.

Blue Grosbeak: pair and 2 yg TBR 9,10 Sep (JH,KM).

Dickcissel: MC 13 Sep, 3 Oct (TB); 2 Stony Kill 24 Sep (BeV); 3 Stony Kill 28 Sep (SG); Yonkers 6 Oct (JG,BM); CPP 10 Oct (LL).

Baltimore Oriole: CPP 13 Nov; Yonkers 23 Nov, late.

Pine Siskin: some reports from SULL from mid Oct – mid Nov; small flock Forsyth Nature Center, Kingston 7 Nov; Accord 20 Nov.

Evening Grosbeak: 10 Vassar Farm 24 Sep (SM); flock flying over private residence, Woodstock 16 Oct (RG).