

REGION 9—HUDSON – DELAWARE

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The fall season started with average monthly temperatures above normal for Poughkeepsie in September and October. This set an incredible twenty-one straight months with above average temperatures starting in February 2011. September averaged 2.1° F above normal, with 5.6" of precipitation, 2" above normal. October was 4.9° warmer with near average rainfall. November broke that streak with slightly below average temperatures but was very dry. Less than 0.7" of precipitation were recorded. The big weather event for the season was Hurricane/Superstorm *Sandy* on 29 October. The Region was on the windy, drier side, with the center coming ashore in New Jersey. Numerous trees were felled and the largest impact to the Region was along Westchester's sound shore due to the storm surge. Some natural areas and shore line were off limits to the public for some time.

Storm related birds were few. Curt McDermott found a shearwater in the Hudson River between Newburgh and Cornwall the day after *Sandy* on 30 October. Unfortunately it was too far out to identify to species. Jim Clinton found a Wilson's Petrel the same day on the Hudson off Lighthouse Park, Esopus, just south of Port Ewen and Tom Dow had another bird off Piermont Pier for Rockland's first record.

Cackling Goose was reported from both Dutchess and Westchester Counties. I expect we will see more reports in the future as observers become more aware of scanning though flocks of Canada Geese. But I caution observers to take care and not to be fooled by some of the local non-migratory stunted populations, which can look much smaller than the Atlantic race. Details or photographs are appreciated by this editor so that we can firmly ascertain the

distribution and occurrence of this recent split. All three scoter species as well as Long-tailed Duck were reported inland, with multiple reports with good numbers. This is a trend that seems to be increasing.

Two **American White Pelicans** were discovered at Marshlands Conservancy in Rye on 7 October and subsequently just to the north off Edith G. Read Preserve the following three days. This is Westchester's third record, with the previous records also from Rye in 1994 and 2005.

The number of Northern Goshawks at hawk watches was impressive, with Chestnut Ridge and Summitville reaching double digits for the season. Broad-winged Hawks peaked at different dates at different sites between 15 and 23 September, and there were no huge one day totals. A Swainson's Hawk was found at Chestnut Ridge on 11 September. Summitville Hawk Watch recorded a remarkable seventeen Golden Eagles, and Chestnut Ridge had thirteen. Oddly, no hawk watch recorded a Rough-legged Hawk.

Notable shorebirds included American Golden-Plovers at Morningside Park, Piermont and Ashokan Reservoir. A Whimbrel was at Marshlands Conservancy from 3 to 6 September and was joined by an Upland Sandpiper on the 7th. A Baird's Sandpiper was at Apollo Plaza, Monticello for one day on the first of September.

Snowy Owls made appearances at Kingston and Ulster on 7 November. The Ulster bird lingered in the area till at least the 26th.

Bob Yunick banded a hatch year female Rufous Hummingbird in Wappinger Falls, 9 November. It had been present for some time. Another was photographed in Ellenville 14 November, and another immature was reported from Piermont 17 November. Rufous Hummingbirds are now appearing to be annual occurrences.

It looks like a long awaited winter finch invasion is underway, with all the species represented. Pine Grosbeaks were reported from Rock Hill and Pound Ridge in November. Both Red and White-winged Crossbills started moving through the area in mid October as well as Common Redpoll. Reports continued through the period. Pine Siskins were impressive, with a number of sightings of flocks of one hundred. Evening Grosbeak reports were weighted to the northern counties, but reports from Rockland and Westchester were received.

Other notable species include: Tundra Swan, Red-necked Grebe, Sandhill Crane, Northern Shrike, Lapland Longspur, Blue Grosbeak and Dickcissel.

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ABBREVIATIONS

AR – Ashokan Reservoir; CIES – Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies; CPP – Croton Point P; EGR – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary; LNP – Lenoir Nature Preserve; MC – Marshlands Conservancy; SGNWR – Shawangunk Grasslands NWR.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: 100 Bear Mt 11 Oct; 72 Bashakill

25 Oct; 75 Forsyth Nature Center 25 Oct.

Brant: 600 Hook Mt 8 Oct; 1250 LNP 12 Oct; 1184 Bashakill 25 Oct; 5000 - 10,000 Hook Mt 12 Oct.

Cackling Goose: Round Pd, North East 22 Oct (CV); Huguenot Lake, New Rochelle 4 Nov (ZS).

Tundra Swan: 3 Marlboro 23 Oct (AMa).

Wood Duck: 50 Bashakill 8 Sep.

Blue-winged Teal: 17 MC 7 Sep; 30 Bashakill 8 Sep.

N. Pintail: 8 AR 5-11 Oct.

Green-winged Teal: 50 AR 30 Sep.

Canvasback: very few reports; Rockland L 3 Nov; 4 Piermont 25 Nov.

Ring-necked Duck: arr 2 Shunpike 27 Sep; max 350 Wanasink L 25 Nov.

Greater Scaup: 1600 EGR 22 Nov.

Lesser Scaup: 400 EGR 22 Nov.

Surf Scoter: Yankee L 10, 31 Oct (JH); AR 13 Oct (PS); Kingston Pt 29 Oct (RG); 2 EGR 28 Nov; 10 Newburgh 30 Nov (CuM).

White-winged Scoter: Kiamesha L 24 Oct (LV, JH); 2 Piermont 30 Oct (TD); Saugerties 30 Oct (FM); 5 Kiamesha L 30 Oct (JH); 7 AR 31 Oct (SS); 9 Neversink Res 31 Oct (LV, JH); 180 Rye 22 Nov.

Black Scoter: 25 Bashakill 25 Oct (LV, JH); 5 Esopus 30 Oct (PS); 10 AR 31 Oct (FM); Sylvan L 31 Oct (CP, HT); 12 AR 10 Nov (PS, SR); 2 EGR 22 Nov.

Long-tailed Duck: 10 Kiamesha L 25 Oct (LV, JH, ABo); 11 Neversink Res 25 Oct (LV, JH); 8 EGR 22 Nov.

Bufflehead: 2 Stanford 29 Sep (AP), early.

Com. Merganser: 60 Lake Tappan 29 Oct; max 358 Lake Superior 25 Nov.

Ring-necked Pheasant: few reports from Sull and Dutc only.

Red-throated Loon: Hook Mt 15 Oct; 3 CPP 30 Oct; Esopus 31 Oct; Neversink Res 10-13 Nov; 28 Rye 22 Nov.

Com. Loon: 8 EGR 28 Oct.

Horned Grebe: 7 AR 27 Oct; 12 AR 10 Nov.

Red-necked Grebe: Poughkeepsie 30 Sep (KH); 2 AR 10 Nov (PS, SR); Stewart Airport 24-26 Nov.

SHEARWATER, sp: Hudson River off Newburgh 30 Oct (CuM).

WILSON'S STORM-PETREL: Piermont 30 Oct (TD), 1st ROCK record; Hudson River off Lighthouse P, Esopus 30 Oct (JC).

N. Gannet: 5 EGR 28 Oct.

Great Cormorant: 2 Rye 4 Nov.

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN: 2 MC 7 Oct (M&AC, TB, GB); 2 EGR 8, 9, 10 Oct (BV, EC, TB), 3rd Westchester record.

Am. Bittern: CIES 30 Sep; Bashakill 5 Oct.

Snowy Egret: 13 MC 4 Sep; Piermont 17 Sep; Larchmont 19 Nov.

Turkey Vulture: 301 LNP Oct 13; 389 Chestnut Ridge 13 Oct.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: 101 Hook Mt 8 Sep; many late sightings Hook Mt 5 Nov; CP 14-22 Nov; Harriman SP 24 Nov.

Bald Eagle: 16 Hook Mt 16 Sep.

N. Harrier: max 20 SGNWR 25 Nov.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 205 Mt Peter 12 Oct.

Cooper's Hawk: max 36 Chestnut Ridge 17 Oct.

N. Goshawk: hawk watch numbers were up for the season; 12 Chestnut Ridge; 11 Summitville; 4 Hook Mt; max 3 Summitville 6 Nov.

Red-shouldered Hawk: max 42 Hook Mt 17 Oct; 27 Chestnut Ridge 27 Oct.

Broad-winged Hawk: 1177 Summitville 15 Sep; 1211 Chestnut Ridge 16 Sep; 1156 LNP 16 Sep; 1123 Hook Mt 16 Sep; 1493 Chestnut Ridge 19 Sep; 1218 Chestnut Ridge 20 Sep; 1183 Mount Peter 20 Sep; 1028 Mount Peter 23 Sep.

SWAINSON'S HAWK: Chestnut Ridge 11 Sep (GR, AW).

Rough-legged Hawk: SGNWR 22 Nov; Stewart Airport 25 Nov; none at hawk watches.

Golden Eagle: hawk watch numbers were up for the season; 17 Summitville; 13 Chestnut Ridge; 5 Hook Mt; 3 Mt Peter; max 6 Summitville 2 Nov; 4 Hook Mt 13 Oct; 4 Chestnut Ridge 27 Oct; 4 Summitville 28 Oct, 1 Nov; plus other scattered reports.

Sora: Crumkill Creek, Piermont 1 Sep; Red Hook 9 Sep; Kingston Point P 22 Sep.

Com. Gallinule: The Great Vly, Saugerties 1 Sep.

Am. Coot: The Great Vly, Saugerties 7 Oct; 16 AR 31 Oct; max 125 Rockland L 3-25 Nov.

Sandhill Crane: Red Hook 23 Sep (CG).

Am. Golden-Plover: Morningside P 13 Sep (JH); Piermont 17 Sep; (T&ED); 2 Piermont 30 Sep (CW); 4 AR 30 Sep (PS).

Semipalmated Plover: 15 MC 7 Sep.

Am. Oystercatcher: 3 MC 3 Sep.

Solitary Sandpiper: AR 20 Oct (PS), late.

Greater Yellowlegs: 28 AR 30 Sep.

Lesser Yellowlegs: 10 AR 5 Oct.

Upland Sandpiper: MC 7 Sep (TB).

Whimbrel: MC 3-7 Sep (TB).

White-rumped Sandpiper: AS 15 Sep.

Baird's Sandpiper: Apollo Plaza, Monticello 1 Sep (JH, ABo, LV).

Pectoral Sandpiper: 20 AS 5 Oct.

Dunlin: AS 4 Oct; 1-3 MC 5, 6, 16, 30 Nov.

Wilson's Snipe: 23 Swan L 17 Nov.

Bonaparte's Gull: Saugerties 21, 23 Sep;

Croton-on-Hudson 30 Oct; 3 MC 6 Nov.

Laughing Gull: 110 MC 30 Sep.

Iceland Gull: 3 Beacon 28 Nov (CuM).

Least Tern: Piermont Pier 9 Sep (CC).

Com. Tern: Saugerties 21-23 Sep (FM, PS, SR, SC).

Forster's Tern: 3 Bashakill 8 Sep (JH, ABo, LV, SB); 10 EGR 11 Oct.

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Barn Owl: Florida 19 Nov (DS).

Snowy Owl: Kingston 7 Nov (AM); Ulster 7, 10-26 Nov (JC, FM, SC).

Short-eared Owl: Hook Mt 25 Oct; SGNWR 18 Nov; 5 SGNWR 25 Nov.

N. Saw-whet Owl: 8 Mohonk Preserve 2 Nov (AM).

Com. Nighthawk: 27 MC 9 Sep; MC 21 Oct.

Chimney Swift: 500 Saugerties 16 Oct.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 9 Hook Mt 3 Sep.

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD: hatch year female Wappinger Falls 7-11 Nov, banded (BY); Ellenville 14 Nov ph (VF, MC); imm Piermont 17 Nov, no details (DC).

Red-headed Woodpecker: Hook Mt 21 Oct; 4 Weston Road Swamp 10 Nov.

Am. Kestrel: max 52 Hook Mt 15 Sep; 38 Chestnut Ridge 6 Oct.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Bashakill 15, 16 Sep.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Saugerties 3 Sep; Woodstock 10 Sep; Staatsburg 13 Sep; Bashakill 15 Sep; Kingston 29 Sep.

N. Shrike: Livingston Manor 4 Nov (LV); Skinner Lane, Goshen 28 Nov (KM).

Blue-headed Vireo: Hook Mt 20 Nov (JPr, JPh).

Philadelphia Vireo: Saugerties 2, 9, 25 Sep; Kingston 7, 23 Sep; 3 Bashakill 8 Sep; 4 Bashakill 9 Sep; MC 3 Oct.

Horned Lark: 150 Skinners Lane 25 Nov.

Sedge Wren: Stonykill 13, 15 Sep (SG,JC).

Marsh Wren: 3 MC 12, 30 Sep.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Summitville Hawk Watch 9 Sep (JH), early; Bashakill 11 Sep (JH).

Gray-cheeked Thrush: MC 1 Sep; 2 Bashakill 24 Sep; Minnewaska SP 11 Oct.

Bicknell's Thrush: vocalizing Saugerties 9 Sep (SC).

Am. Pipit: 57 Red Hook 5 Oct; 300 Marbletown 20 Oct; 180 Red Hook 21 Oct; 21 Bashakill 23 Oct; 33 NR 4 Nov; 24 MC 8 Nov; 50 CPP 17 Nov.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: CPP 27 Oct (AS).

Snow Bunting: AR 27 Oct; 4 Marist College 27 Oct; 3 Hook Mt 5 Nov; 75 AR 7 Nov; 5 Neversink Res 4 Nov; 2 Woodstock 14 Nov; 20 Kingston 17 Nov.

Orange-crowned Warbler: Vassar Farm 22, 25 Sep; Forsyth Nature Center 28 Sep; 2 Vassar Farm 8 Oct; MC 3,14 Nov.

Connecticut Warbler: Bashakill 14, 19, 20, 30 Sep (LV,JH,PL,SMi); Basin Rd, AR 16 Sep (SR,PS); Wurtsboro 29 Sep (JH).

Mourning Warbler: MC 6 Sep; Bashakill 27,29 Sep.

Cape May Warbler: Woodstock 11 Sep; AR 30 Sep.

N. Parula: Tallman Mountain SP 2 Nov; Nyack Beach SP 5 Nov.

Bay-breasted Warbler: Bashakill 1 Sep.

Yellow Warbler: EGR 8 OCT (BV).

Blackpoll Warbler: Rockland Lake SP 1 Nov (EE).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 500 Hook Mt 13 Oct.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Vesper Sparrow: Red Hook 3, 9, 15, 29 Sep, 6 Oct; CIES 13 Sep; Marbletown 13 Oct; 2 Bashakill 17 Oct; 4 Marbletown 20 Oct; Hook Mt 5 Nov.

Grasshopper Sparrow: Red Hook 9 Sep; MC 24 Oct (TB).

Nelson's Sparrow: 2 MC 8 Oct; Stone Ridge 13 Oct (WT); Marbletown 13 Oct (MD).

Saltmarsh Sparrow: MC 8 Oct.

Lincoln's Sparrow: Mt Kisco 7 Nov (AS), late.

White-throated Sparrow: arr 2 MC 17 Sep.

White-crowned Sparrow: Red Hook 29 Sep; 1-3 MC 7 Oct-4 Nov; 6 Morningside Park 13 Oct; 3 Vassar Farm 25 Oct; 4 SGNWR 12 Nov; 6 Millerton 19 Nov.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Bylane Farm 22 Oct (TJ), Rosendale 29 Oct (AM).

Blue Grosbeak: Bashakill 4 Oct (JH), 3rd record SULL.

Dickcissel: Marbletown 20 Oct (JC, PS, MD, FM, WT); MC 20 Oct (TB); Rhinebeck 26 Oct (KH).

Rusty Blackbird: FDR 17 Oct; 60 Bashakill 11 Nov.

Pine Grosbeak: 2 Rock Hill 5 Nov (TM); Pound Ridge 22 Nov (JV).

Red Crossbill: Hook Mt 13 Oct; Chestnut Ridge 17 Oct; MC 14,20 Nov; Port Ewen 17 Nov; Krumville 18 Nov; EGR 22 Nov; Tibbets Brook Park 23 Nov.

White-winged Crossbill: Roscoe 26,27 Oct; 3 Forsyth Nature Center 4 Nov; 2 MC 4 Nov; MC 6,15,20 Nov; 2 Minnewaska SP 13 Nov; 6 Kingston 17 Nov; 13 Krumville 18 Nov.

Com. Redpoll: Millbrook 20-21 Oct; Saugerties 5 Nov; Orange Lake 6 Nov; Tillson L 9 Nov; MC 15 Nov; 2 Kingston 18 Nov; 3 MC 22 Nov.

Pine Siskin: arr Poughquag 9 Sep; 35 LNP Oct 13; 100 Chestnut Ridge 17 Oct; 36 Clinton Corners 17-30 Oct; 100 Woodstock 23 Oct; 75 Poughkeepsie 25 Oct; 70 EGR 28 Oct; 100 Roscoe 5 Nov.

Evening Grosbeak: Hook Mt 13 Oct; 2 Lewisboro 18 Oct; 4 Bashakill 20 Oct; 6-12 Kingston 23,24 Oct; 23 Woodstock 24 Oct; Poughquag 24 Oct; 8 Millbrook 25 Oct; 12 Livingston Manor 26 Oct; Saugerties 27-29 Oct; 2 MC 4,12 Nov; 7 Saugerties 5 Nov; and a nine additional scattered reports from Sullivan Co in early Nov.

EXOTICS - ESCAPES

Chukar: 2 Clinton Corners 14 Sep (W&LS).