

REGION 9—HUDSON-DELAWARE

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The fall season started out very dry but with normal temperatures. Only 2.3" of rain was recorded in Poughkeepsie in September, 1.4" short of average. White Plains had 1.4" of precipitation; the norm is 4.7". October was even drier and very warm. White Plains only recorded 0.87" of rain and was 3° warmer than normal. Poughkeepsie had ten days where the high was 70° or higher. November had normal precipitation but winter-like cold at the end of the month made the average temperature 2° below normal. White Plains had a high of only 29° on 24 November, and Poughkeepsie recorded a low of 12° on 25 November.

Both Greater White-fronted Goose and Cackling Goose were reported in November, further indicating their increasing presence and detection. There were three reports of Red-throated Loon away from Long Island Sound including one in breeding plumage on the Croton River from the Croton-Harmon Railway Station on 19 October. Little Blue Herons were found in two locations in Dutchess County in September.

Broad-winged Hawks moved somewhat early, with good numbers passing the hawk watches from 13 September to their peaks on 20 September. Both Red-shouldered Hawk and Golden Eagle numbers were up at most hawk watches, with 221 Red-shouldered Hawks and five Golden Eagles counted at Chestnut Ridge on 2 November.

Ray Whitt discovered a juvenile **PURPLE GALLINULE** at Tibbetts Brook Park in Yonkers, Westchester County on 4 September. The bird was seen again the next day, and on 7 September both Jeff Seneca and Doug Rodda photographed the gallinule. The bird was searched for on 9 and 10 September but could not be relocated. This is Westchester County's ninth record, but the first fall sighting.

Notable shorebirds included Whimbrels at Marshlands Conservancy in September and at Bashakill in late October. A Hudsonian Godwit was at the Sleightsburg Spit, Kingston on 29 October. Two Long-billed Dowitchers were found at Six-1/2 Station Road Sanctuary on 4 October, with at least one lingering to the 18th. Another Long-billed Dowitcher was at Ashokan Reservoir on 19 and 27 October.

A Black Tern visited at the Camel Farm, Westtown on 2 September. Rob Stone discovered a Black Skimmer on Glenmere Lake in Orange County on 7 October. A number of people observed and photographed the bird. This is Orange County's first record. At least one observer, Ken McDermott, sent in a NYSARC Report.

A **Snowy Owl** discovered in Orange County's Black Dirt Region on 13 November marked the beginning of an incredible invasion into the Region that lasted well into the winter. Other Snowy Owls included one in Larchmont on 23 November and at Edith G. Read Preserve on the 26th. A second Orange County owl was found in Goshen on the 27th while the other was still being seen nearby, marking the first time two Snowy Owls have been found in Orange County not only in the same year, but on the same day.

Jim Clinton reported a **TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE** along Old Post Road, Staatsburg on 29 November. The observer supplied good details and was encouraged to send them to NYSARC. A search by others failed to relocate it.

A rare record for Orange County was a Nelson's Sparrow found by Rob Stone at 6-1/2 Station Road Sanctuary on 16 October and seen by seven additional observers.

Other notable species include Northern Shrike, Lapland Longspur, Clay-colored Sparrow, and Dickcissel.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

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

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: Clinton Corners 2-4 Nov (CV, DK, mob); Amenia 29 Nov (AP,EF).

Cackling Goose: Spring Lake, Kingston 19 Oct (MD, PS, WT, JPro, WT); Camel Farm 22 Oct (DRi, AP); Pine Plains 5 Nov (AP); Wallkill 29 Nov (KMa).

Tundra Swan: Sleightsburg Spit, Sleightsburg 31 Oct (WT).

Greater Scaup: 2 EGR 28 Sep; 500 EGR 16 Nov.

Lesser Scaup: 350 EGR 16 Nov.

Surf Scoter: 2 EGR 12,13,15,16 Oct; f Sylvan L 10 Nov; 2 Sylvan L 14 Nov.

White-winged Scoter: 2 Ashokan Res 19 Oct; 3 Falling Waters Preserve, Saugerties 26 Oct; 12 EGR 6,26 Nov; 2 Sylvan L 9 Nov; Ashokan Res 9 Nov; Sylvan L 14 Nov.

Black Scoter: 2 Tivoli Bay 29 Oct.

Long-tailed Duck: Staatsburg 13,15 Nov; Sylvan L 17 Nov; 25 EGR 26

Bufflehead: 45 EGR 25 Oct.

Red-throated Loon: Tamarack L 26 Sep (AP); Doodletown 13 Oct; CPP 19 Oct (AA,LT); 8 EGR 26 Nov(TB).

Com. Loon: 12 EGR 26 Nov.

Pied-billed Grebe: 8 Rockland L 17 Nov.

Horned Grebe: 4-5 EGR 16,17,26 Nov.

Red-necked Grebe: Ashokan Res 19 Oct (MD); Kiamasha L 3,4,7 Nov (LV,JH); 2 Rye 16,19,26 Nov (TB).

N. Gannet: 2 EGR 25 Nov.

Great Cormorant: EGR 23 Nov.

Am. Bittern: Wallkill NWR 6 Nov.

Great Egret: Liberty Marsh 2 Nov; Amenia 16,17 Nov.

Little Blue Heron: Wappingers L 1 Sep (KH); 2 South Tivoli Bay 8 Sep (SR); South Tivoli Bay 11 Sep (SR).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: Newburgh 2 Sep (BN); Rye 21 Sep.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: 20 Hook 9 Sep; 26 Mt Peter 13 Sep; last Chestnut Ridge 8 Nov.

Bald Eagle: 9 Mt Peter 5 Sep; 14 Hook Mt 9 Sep; 16 Hook Mt 12 Sep; 8 Chestnut Ridge 16 Sep.

N. Harrier: 15 Black Dirt Region 30 Nov (MBr,MF).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 141 Chestnut Ridge 24 Sep; 310 Hook Mt 26 Sep.

Cooper's Hawk: max 28 Chestnut Ridge 2 Nov.

N. Goshawk: Bashakill 28 Sep; Chestnut Ridge 17 Sep, 8,25 Oct,2,8,30 Nov.

Red-shouldered Hawk: 27 Mount Peter 27 Oct; 221 Chestnut Ridge 2 Nov.

Broad-winged Hawk: 1539 Chestnut Ridge 14 Sep; 1933 Chestnut Ridge 15 Sep; 8587 Chestnut Ridge 16 Sep; 1444 Mt Peter 18 Sep; 2684 Mt Peter 20 Sep.

Rough-legged Hawk: Liberty Marsh 4 Nov; Florida 27 Nov; 5 Black Dirt Region 30 Nov.

Golden Eagle: increased reports from all hawk watches; max 5 Chestnut Ridge 2 Nov.

PURPLE GALLINULE: Tibbetts Brook P, Yonkers 4,5,7 Sept (RW, JS, DRo).

Sandhill Crane: Wallkill River NWR-Liberty Marsh 8 Oct (MO); flyover, Kingston 28 Oct (JCL).

Am. Oystercatcher: 2 MC Sep 6; 10 Rye 21 Sep.

Am. Golden-Plover: 86 Pine I 2 Sep; 12 Skinner lane, Goshen 2 Sep; 77 Pine I 14 Sep.

Semipalmated Plover: Hopewell Junction 12 Oct; Liberty Marsh 2 Nov.

Solitary Sandpiper: Kingston Res #1 20 Oct.

Whimbrel: MC 5 Sep (TB); Bashakill 24 Oct (JH).

Hudsonian Godwit: Sleightsburg Spit, Kingston 29 Oct (JY).

Dunlin: 8 Pine Plains 5 Nov; 4 Pine Plains 7 Nov; 16 Ashokan Res 11 Nov.

Purple Sandpiper: 8 EGR 16 Nov.

Baird's Sandpiper: Skinner lane, Goshen 3 Sep (JH); 2 New Hampton 6 Sep (ML).
Buff-breasted Sandpiper: Indiana Rd 13 Sep; 4 Pine 1 26 Sep.

Long-billed Dowitcher: 2 Six-1/2 Station Rd Sanctuary 4-6, 10 Oct (MZ, SB, BN); Six-1/2 Station Rd Sanctuary 16, 18 Oct (BN, DP, MZ); Ashokan Res 19, 27 Oct, photo (PS, MD, WT, JPro).

Laughing Gull: 70 MC 9 Sep; 2 MC 8 Nov.

Black Tern: Camel Farm, Westtown 2 Sep (RS, KMc, LO).

Forster's Tern: MC 2, 3 Sep.

Black Skimmer: Glenmere Lake 7 Oct (RS, BN, CM, KMc, JH), rare ORAN.

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Barn Owl: Rhinebeck 2 Oct (PJ).

Snowy Owl: Black Dirt region 13, 26, 27, 29 Nov (SB, CM, JH), photo; Larchmont 23 Nov (RM); EGR 26 Nov (TB, KBa, AS), photo; Florida 27 Nov (KMc, SS, DM); Skinner Lane, Goshen 27 Nov.

Short-eared Owl: Chestnut Ridge Hawkwatch 23 Oct; 9 Shawangunk Glasslands 3, 4 Nov; 20 SGNWR 17 Nov; 2 Florida 27 Nov; Hickok Brook 28 Nov.

N. Saw-whet Owl: Sloan Gorge, Woodstock 4, 9 Nov.

Com. Nighthawk: 76 Tarrytown 1 Sep; 83 Fishkill 2 Sep; Orange 26 Sep; 2 Mount Vernon 2 Oct (MBo).

Chimney Swift: 1500 HM 3 Sep (JPh); last Goldens Bridge 6 Nov (AGr).

Selasphorus, sp: Croton-on-Hudson 17-25 (KBe), ph.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Chestnut Ridge Hawkwatch, Bedford Corners 6 Sep; HP 19, 22 Sep; CPP 23, 27 Sep; Mount Peter Hawk Watch 23, 26 Sep; Pruyn Sanctuary 27 Sep; EGR 27 Sep; Tallman Mt. SP 28 Sep; Black Creek Preserve 29 Sep; Yonkers 7, 12 Oct; 1-2 Staatsburg 15, 17, 20, 23 Nov; CPP 29-30 Nov.

Am. Kestrel: 25 Mt Peter 13 Sep; 34 Chestnut Ridge 2 Oct; 27 Chestnut Ridge 8 Oct.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Mount Peter 12, 26 Sep.

N. Shrike: Warwick 8-11, 16, 17, 25 Nov (RS).

Blue-headed Vireo: EGR 2 Nov.

Philadelphia Vireo: Buttercup W 11 Sep; MC 11 Sep; 2 Vassar Farm; Millbrook 29 Sep.

Tree Swallow: New Windsor 31 Oct.

Bank Swallow: 2 MC 4 Sep; CPP 16 Sep.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: low numbers

House Wren: Kingston 10 Nov.

Marsh Wren: 2 Buttercup 8 Sep (MY).

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE: Staatsburg on 29 Nov (JC).

Gray-cheeked Thrush: Muscoot Farm 4 Nov (AS, PL).

Am. Pipit: 25-30 CPP 13, 24 Oct; 23 Nov.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: 2 Skinner Lane, Goshen 5 Nov (MZ); CPP 10, 11 Nov (LT, CR).

Snow Bunting: 27 CPP 4 Nov; 600 Black Dirt Region 30 Nov (MBr, MF).

N. Waterthrush: Shrub Oak P 5 Nov.

"Lawrences's" Warbler: Kingston 7 Nov.

Orange-crowned Warbler: Fishkill 17 Sep;

Millbrook 26 Sep; Wallkill NWR 18 Oct; Harcourt Wildlife Sanctuary, New Paltz 5 Nov.

Connecticut Warbler: Nuclear L 17 Sep (GZ); LaGrangeville 21 Sep (EF); Goose Pond Mountain SP 30 Sep (RH); Wallkill River NWR-Liberty Marsh 8 Oct (CM, RS).

Mourning Warbler: MC 5 Sep; Prun Sanc 17, 18 Sep; Rye Nature Center 24 Sep.

Cape May Warbler: Poughquag 1, 15, 25 Sep.

N. Parula: Rockland L SP 3 Nov.

Blackpoll Warbler: Eastchester 3 Nov.

Palm Warbler: 50 CPP 9 Oct.

Pine Warbler: CPP 4 Nov.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: 70 CPP 9 Oct.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Clay-colored Sparrow: MC 5 Nov (TB); Bashakill 11, 14-16 Oct (JH).

Vesper Sparrow: 4 Red Hook 1 Sep (AP), early; max b10 CPP 24 Oct (CR); numerous reports in Oct; CPP 23 Nov.

Nelson's Sparrow: Six-1/2 Station Rd Sanctuary 16, 17 Oct (RS, SB, JH), rare ORAN; 3 MC 16 Oct; 6 MC 17 Oct; 9 MC 6 Nov; 5 MC 7 Nov.

White-crowned Sparrow: first Ulster 24 Sep; Stony Kill 25 Sep; MC 1, 3, 6, 24 Oct, 14 Nov; CPP 9 Oct.

Dickeissel: Stony Kill 19 Sep (MK); ad f Lomontville 12 Oct, photo (FM, SC).

Pine Siskin: very few reports; Poughkeepsie 2-3 Nov; 2 Pruyn Sanctuary 11 Nov; Wappingers L 17 Nov.