



REGION 9—HUDSON-DELAWARE

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The season's weather was marked with many days of easterly or southerly winds, putting a damper on fall migration through the area. September was very warm and included a four day heat wave starting 6 September with a high in Poughkeepsie of 97° on 8 September. There were no cool, well-below-average days in the month. The average monthly temperature was 5.8° above normal. Rainfall amounted to 3.5", 0.8" below normal. October was very dry with only 1.7" of precipitation; 2.8" below normal. Temperature fluctuated greatly, with three days with highs at 78° and six days with lows in the twenties. The coldest day in Poughkeepsie had a low of 21° on 19 October. This all averaged out to normal temperatures for the month. November was also dry, with 1.8" of rain, 1.6" below normal. The frequent southerly winds brought the month in at 4.8° warmer than normal. This summer-like weather made for a generally uneventful fall, but a few good birds did show up.

Greater White-fronted Goose appeared in late November in Dutchess and Ulster Counties. A couple of Cackling Geese also appeared in the month.

Easterly and southern winds kept numbers down at most hawk watches this fall. The exception was a record number of Broad-winged Hawks at Mount Peter for the season. The Mount Peter Hawk Watch tallied over 11,000, with the high of 2806 on 16 September.

After breeding successfully in Sharon Station Rd. Marsh in Amenia, Common Gallinules lingered to delight birders into October.

A Baird's Sandpiper found on Greig Farm in Red Hook 6 September was only Dutchess County's third record. The bird stayed until the 19th. Baird's were also found in the expected areas of Orange County in early September. Western Sandpiper and a Long-billed Dowitcher appeared in Morningside Park in September. Apparently these are the first records for shorebird habitat-deprived Sullivan County.

A highlight of the season was yet another report of **CRESTED CARACARA**. One passed the hawk watch on Route 299, Highland, Ulster County on 16 September and appeared to be missing an eye. Monk Parakeets appear to be expanding in Westchester from their stronghold in New Rochelle, with sightings and nests in Yonkers and Rye.

CAVE SWALLOWS were found and photographed in mid-November, with two at Rye Town Park 14 November followed by a single bird at Croton Point Park 23 November. This marks the sixth and seventh record for both Region 9 and Westchester County.

Nice fall finds included a few Nelson's Sparrows and Blue Grosbeaks and a single 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: Thompson P 7, 12, 13, 19 Nov (CV,AP, MGa); Blue Chip Farm 22, 23, 25, 30 Nov (MD); The Camel Farm 27 Nov (KM).

Snow Goose: Orange 9 Sep (SB).

Brant: 450 Lenoir Nature Preserve 10 Oct (MB).

Cackling Goose: Thompson P 7 Nov (AP, MGa); Weeping Spruce Preserve, Amenia 22,27 Nov (CPo,HT).

Wood Duck: 57 Forest L, White Plains 7 Nov.

Blue-winged Teal: 46 Bashakill 6 Oct (JH).

Green-winged Teal: Rockland L 1 Sep (D&AW), early.

Ring-necked Duck: arr early Rockefeller 4 Oct (EE).

Surf Scoter: EGR 14 Nov.

White-winged Scoter: 14 Lenoir Nature Preserve 10 Oct (MB); EGr 14 Nov.

Red-throated Loon: arr EGR 2 Nov.

Com. Loon: arr EGR 26 Sep.

Horned Grebe: 2 Neversink Res 10 Oct (JH).

Red-necked Grebe: Neversink Res 10 Oct (JH).

Am. Bittern: New Rochelle 4 Sep (PB); Croton Bay 6 Oct (AS).

Great Egret: Kingston Pt 7 Nov (DFu); Clarkstown Landfill 16 Nov (MP), late this far north.

HAWKS - LARIDS

Osprey: Lenoir Nature Preserve 22 Nov (EH, BV); CPP 24 Nov (EE).

Broad-winged Hawk: 2806 Mount Peter 16 Sep; 2365 Mount Peter 17 Dec; 1845 Mount Peter 21 Sep.

Golden Eagle: Mount Peter 17, 19 Oct, 8, 9, 14 Nov; 2 Hook Mt 23 Oct (TF, MI); 3 Butler Sanc 8 Nov; 3 Interstate-84 Overlook HawkWatch 20 Nov (GP, BS).

Clapper Rail: MC 3 Sep.

Sora: Sharon Station Rd Marsh, Amenia 8 Sep (JR).

Com. Gallinule: 1-3 Sharon Station Rd Marsh, Amenia 8, 13 Sep, 25 Oct (JR, EF, CPo, HT).

Am. Oystercatcher: 1-2 MC 1,4 Sep; EGR 10 Sep.

Am. Golden-Plover: 17 Warren sod Farm 9 Sep (BN); Ryder P Milbrook 4,5,6 Nov (CV,AP,DK,CPo,DH).

Semipalmated Plover: 6 Tappan 22 Oct (KR).

Spotted Sandpiper: Sleightsburg Spit 23,25 Oct (JY).

Upland Sandpiper: Hook Mt 20 Sep (SS, MY, ph).

Stilt Sandpiper: 6 ½ Station Marsh 4 Sep (MZ).

Baird's Sandpiper: Red Hook 6-10 Sep (MR); 4-5 Black Dirt Region 5, 6, 7 Sep (JH,APo, KM, BN). Warren Sod Farm 9 Sep (BN).

White-rumped Sandpiper: Morningside P 15 Sep (JH, AB, SB).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: 3-4 Warren sod Farm 5, 6, 9 Sep (BN, JH).

Pectoral Sandpiper: 4 Morningside P 15 Sep (JH); 3 Pine Plains 20 Sep (CP).

Western Sandpiper: Morningside P SULL 15-16 Sep (JH, AB, SB), first county record.

Short-billed Dowitcher: MC 3 Sep; 4 Bontecou Wetlands, Millbrook 3 Sep (AP); 6 ½ Station Marsh 21 Sep (MZ); Route 82, Stanfordville 7 Nov (BM).

Long-billed Dowitcher: Morningside P 6, 15 Sep (JH, SB), first county record.

Laughing Gull: max 160 EGR 11,15 Sep.

Caspian Tern: MC 14 Sep (TB).

Com. Tern: max 260 EGR 15 Sep.

Forster's Tern: 2 EGR 10 Sep; 6 EGR 14 Nov.

PIGEONS - PARROTS

N. Saw-whet Owl: Sloan Gorge, Saugerties 19, 27 Oct. 1, 8 Nov (PS); 2 caught and banded New Paltz 13 Nov (DH).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last Bashakill 5 Oct.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Vassar Farm 9 Sep; max 8 Western Swamp 25 Nov; Chestnut Ridge 21 Sep (CPI); Bashakill 27 Oct (JH).

CRESTED CARACARA: Route 299, Highland, Ulster County 16 Sep, passing hawk watch and appeared to be missing an eye.

Monk Parakeet: 4 Yonkers 15 Sep; 12 EGR 15 Oct; 10 EGR 7 Nov.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Bashakill 7, 11 Sep (JH, AL).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Mount Peter 1 Sep; RNC 1 Sep; Bashakill 7, 14 Sep (JH).

Philadelphia Vireo: 2 Pawling 1 Sep; Bashakill 2, 14 Sep (JH, SB, BN); 2 Rockefeller SP 14 Sep (AS); MC 16 Sep; 2 Peach Hill 16 Sep; Dutchess Rail Trail 25 Sep (KH).

CAVE SWALLOW: 2 Rye Town Park 14 Nov (GB, TB); CPP 23 Nov (KL), ph.

Marsh Wren: 1-2 MC 2 Sep- 11 Nov; EGR 15 Nov.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Bedford 25 Oct (MM).

Gray-cheeked Thrush: Bashakill 8, 21 Oct (JH); CPP 17 Oct (LT); Hook Mt 16 Nov (CW).
Bicknell's Thrush: MC 5 Nov.
Am. Pipit: 6 Bashakill 24 Sep (JH); 2 CPP 6 Oct (AS); 20-24 Bashakill 20, 27 Oct; 20 CPP 26 Oct, 4 Nov (AS).

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

Snow Bunting: 2-5 CPP 7, 15 Nov.
“Lawrence’s Warbler”: Buttercup East 5 Sep (MR); MC 16 May (TB).
Mourning Warbler: Rye 14 Oct.
Cape May Warbler: 2 Bashakill 7 Sep; Rockefeller SP 14 Sep (AS); Bashakill 23 Sep; Sharpe Reservation 23 Sep; Dustchess Rail Trail 25 Sep (KH).
Bay-breasted Warbler: Bashakill 13, 14 Sep (JH).
Wilson’s Warbler: Harriman SP 21 Oct (AW).
Yellow-breasted Chat: CPP 10 Sep (LT); Black Creek Preserve 16 Oct.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr CPP 26 Oct
Vesper Sparrow: 2 CPP 6 Oct (AS); Bethel 16 Oct (JH, AB); 6 CPP 26 Oct (AS); Dover Plains 1 Nov (DK).
Nelson's Sparrow: Posquiello Creekside Rd, Marbletown 12 Oct (PS,MD); MC 12 Oct; 3 MC 13 Oct; 4 MC 14 Oct; max 5 MC 21 Oct (TB).
Saltmarsh Sparrow: 2 MC 14 Oct.
Fox Sparrow: arr Pruyn Sanc 23 Oct (AS); Bashakill 23 Oct (JH).
Lincoln’s Sparrow: Mt Vernon 15 Nov (KB, MB), late.
White-crowned Sparrow: max 4 CPP 17 Oct (LT).
Blue Grosbeak: 2 MC 10 Oct (GB, TB); Lenoir Nature Preserve 11 Oct (MB).
Dickcissel: Posquiello Creekside Rd, Marbletown 11, 12 Oct (FM).
Rusty Blackbird: max 60 Bashakill 27 Oct (JH, SB).
Brown-headed Cowbird: max 1000 Stanford 27 Sep (CP, HT).