

August 2018 eBird Summary
Very Unusual and Rare Sightings
by Carol VanOeveren

The following is an overview of the very unusual and rare eBird sightings for August 2018 for Allegan, Kent, Muskegon and Ottawa counties. This report does not include rare birds that are flyovers, unchaseable and those with sketchy details. Rare and unusual eBird sightings are updated daily on the GRAC website.

Temperatures again soared into the low 90s with oppressive humidity the first weekend of the month. Much needed rain moved in the 6th and continued intermittently through the week. Dry, warm and humid weather continued through mid-month. Beneficial rain with a cold front arrived on the 21st, which produced much cooler and less humid conditions through the end of the week. Heat and humidity returned on the 26th. Several rounds of heavy rain and thunderstorms continued through mid-week (producing flooding and state-wide power outages) before another cool-down.

Purple Martins nested in good numbers in the martin houses along the Grand Haven north pier – 47 counted Aug 10. **Red-headed Woodpeckers** nested at the Mt Pisgah Dune Boardwalk area at Holland SP – two juveniles were observed Aug 10. Two juveniles were also observed at Mt Baldhead Park in Allegan Co Aug 23. Warblers started to move through late mid-month at the Muskegon Wastewater, Muskegon State Park area and several locations in Kent and Ottawa cos.

The best finds: A **Red Knot** was observed flying with a **Ruddy Turnstone** (up to four there Aug 6-7, one Aug 21) along the beach at Holland SP Aug 2 by Carl and Judi Manning. Visit <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S47603316> for Judi's photos. Another knot was also seen at the Muskegon Wastewater Aug 25 on the GRAC field trip. One juvenile was observed by Rick Brigham on private beach property near Douglas Beach Park Aug 26 and re-located by Ed DeVries at the park later the same day. The bird continued through Aug 28. Visit <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S48089081> for Ed's photos. Two **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** were observed at AAA Turf Farm in Ottawa Co Aug 31 by John VanOrman

Others of note: up to three **Eared Grebes** continued since Apr at the Wastewater throughout Aug; a **Least Bittern** continued through the summer at Upper Macatawa Natural Area 84th Ave access in Ottawa Co; up to two **Black-crowned Night-Herons** at VanBragt Park in Holland Aug 3-11 and one still there Aug 31, one at Upper Macatawa Natural Area Aug 11, one at Harbor Island in Grand Haven Aug 17, one along Muskegon River at US-31 in Muskegon Co Aug 18, one at Muskegon Lake Nature Preserve Aug 19; one **Common Gallinule** with six chicks at Covell Park in Whitehall Aug 19, one juvenile at 11th St lake in Allegan Co Aug 24; one **Black-bellied Plover** at the Wastewater Aug 7-20, one at Saugatuck Dunes SP Natural Area Aug 19, two at Holland SP Aug 30; one **American Golden-Plover** at the Wastewater Aug 7 and up to eight there Aug 25-27, one along 24th St S of 116th Ave in Allegan Co Aug 29, one at 74th Ave and Hayes St in Ottawa Co Aug 30, three at AAA Turf Farm in Ottawa Co Aug 31; **28 Semipalmated Plover** at the Wastewater Aug 18; one banded juvenile **Piping Plover** at Kalamazoo River mouth in Allegan Co Aug 3-6 and 19 – unknown if same individual; two **Ruddy Turnstones** at Kalamazoo River mouth in Allegan Co Aug 3-4 and one Aug 26-30. Visit <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S47628349> to view Ed DeVries' photos along with the Piping Plover at the same location; one **White-rumped Sandpiper** at the Wastewater Aug 18 and 24; varying numbers of **Baird's Sandpipers** at the Wastewater throughout the month with a high count of est 20 Aug 20, one at Holland SP Aug 17 and 23, four at Coopersville Sewage Ponds Aug 25, up to three at AAA Turf Farm in Ottawa Co Aug 30-31; one **Stilt Sandpiper** continued since July at the Wastewater Aug 4 and one there Aug 21 and 26; up to three **Short-billed Dowitchers** at Caledonia Sewage Ponds throughout the month, up to three at the Wastewater Aug 18-27; one **Wilson's Phalarope** at the Wastewater Aug 11 and up to six there Aug 18-26, one at AAA Turf Farm in Ottawa Co Aug 29-30; two **Eurasian Collared-Doves** originally seen along 14th St N of 135th Ave in Allegan Co Aug 16 continued at a turkey farm along 136th St about a half-mile W of 14th St Aug 18; an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** (not necessarily rare, but now considered a threatened, declining species) at Pine Creek Park in Ottawa Co Aug 18 and 22, one at Huff Park Aug 27-31, one at Upper Macatawa Natural Area Aug 30; a **Winter Wren** at Upper Macatawa Natural Area 84th Ave access Aug 15; **Dickcissels** continued to be seen at the Wastewater throughout the month with a high count of 34 Aug 11 – known nesting location.

Note: **Whooping Crane** Lily was still present with two Sandhills in wheat stubble field at M-156 and Packard Rd (near Schoonover WPA) in Lenawee Co Aug 18.