

August 2021 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 2021 for Allegan, Kent, Muskegon and Ottawa counties. This report does not include rare birds that are flyovers, unchaseable, on inaccessible private property and those with sketchy details.

A sunny, pleasant period with below normal temps in the 70s and low 80s started the month. By the 6th the dewpoints started increasing as well as the heat, hitting the high 80s and heat indices in the 90s by the 8th along with occasional storms. Dewpoints climbed further into the oppressive 70s and the heat continued with several rounds of severe storms (even a weak tornado confirmed near Dorr in Allegan Co on the evening of the 11th) throughout southern lower Michigan causing flooding, widespread wind damage resulting in prolonged power outages and offering no cooling. After a strong cold front late on the 12th, a comfortable, dry period in the low 80s followed for a few days. Increasing humidity on the 18th brought hit-or-miss afternoon thunderstorms through the 21st. The heat and oppressively humid conditions (heat indices again well into the 90s to near 100 at times) continued, with occasional pop-up storms with torrential downpours through the 29th. After a strong cold front, we finally had relief from the humidity and a welcome cool down into the low 80s the last two days of the month.

Shorebird migration picked up this month with the Muskegon Wastewater the usual hotspot including the appearance of Buff-breasted Sandpipers. Warblers started moving through the latter part of the month. Small movements of twelve species with 25 individuals along the Paul Henry Trail 84th St to Kraft Ave SE on the 27th, 14 species with 18 individuals at the Wastewater and twelve species with 14 individuals at Mt Pisgah Dune Boardwalk in Ottawa Co (eleven species with 20 individuals including a Mourning Warbler there Aug 30) both on the 29th.

Notables for the month: Up to two **Canvasbacks** at the Muskegon Wastewater Aug 9-31 – out of season. A **Long-tailed Duck** at the Wastewater Aug 7-8, one at Grand Haven north pier (appeared in rough shape) Aug 17 – both out of season. Two **Common Goldeneye** (females/imm) at the Wastewater Aug 23 – out of season. A **RED-NECKED GREBE** (found by several observers) at Reeds Lake Aug 14, two (found by Q B Schultze) at Millennium Park Aug 16. Up to two **Eared Grebes** continued at the

Wastewater Aug 14-28 – known location. A **Common Gallinule** continued at Muskegon SGA Lane's Landing Aug 4, at least one continued at Window on the Waterfront in Holland Aug 7, seven (2 ad, 5 chicks) along Grand River near Spring Lake on canoe trip Aug 14, up to three at 11th St lake in Allegan Co Aug 21-26, varying numbers have continued since spring at Grand Haven SGA Bruce Bayou Cypress St access – known breeding location, two at Mill Point in Spring Lake Aug 30-31 (likely some of the same observed Aug 14 in same area). Two **Black-bellied Plover** at the Wastewater Aug 10 and one Aug 23. An **American Golden-Plover** intermittently at the Wastewater Aug 10-24 and two there Aug 27. **227 Killdeer** at AAA Turf Farm in Ottawa Co Aug 14 – large number of obvious migrants. A juv **PIPING PLOVER** (found by Josiah Willink) viewed from Port Sheldon Pigeon River outlet in Ottawa Co Aug 22 was relocated Aug 23 just S of Windsnest Park and continued Aug 27 (visit <https://ebird.org/checklist/S93647127> to view Lonny Garris' photos). Up to five **Ruddy Turnstones** at the Wastewater Aug 7-11, two at Coopersville Sewage Ponds Aug 7-8, one at Grand Haven north pier Aug 24-26. A **STILT SANDPIPER** (found by Merry Beth/Justin Scott) at the Wastewater Aug 7-8 (visit <https://ebird.org/checklist/S92964879> to view Ken Sapkowski's photos) and up to six there Aug 9-31, one (found by Ty Wagenmaker) at AAA Turf Farm in Ottawa Co Aug 12, one at Kalamazoo River Allegan Bayou (S of M-89-Marshall St) (found by Tim Cornish) in Allegan Co Aug 28. Varying numbers of **Baird's Sandpipers** continued since July at the Wastewater throughout the month (**36** there Aug 25 seen by Steve Minard is likely a record number for this location), one at Fennville Sewage Ponds (restricted access) Aug 3, three at AAA Turf Farm in Ottawa Co Aug 14, two at Holland SP Aug 17 and 24, three at Kalamazoo River mouth and two at Saugatuck Harbor Natural Area in Allegan Co Aug 18, up to three at Patterson Rd Cattle Ponds in Allegan Co Aug 22-28, one at Port Sheldon Windsnest Park in Ottawa Co Aug 27. A **White-rumped Sandpiper** at the Wastewater Aug 4 and up to five Aug 7-29, two at Patterson Rd Cattle Ponds in Allegan Co Aug 23-26. A **BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER** (found by Jason Carlson) at the Wastewater Aug 3 (visit <https://ebird.org/checklist/S92733513> to view Ken Sapkowski's photos) and three there (found by Steve Minard) Aug 10 and one Aug 14-23. Up to three **Short-billed Dowitchers** at the Wastewater throughout the month and six there Aug 25, one at Muskegon SGA Lane's Landing Aug 4 and two Aug 6 and 13 Aug 21, one at Coopersville Sewage Ponds Aug 8. A **WILLET** at Grand Haven north pier Aug 11. A **Wilson's Phalarope** continued since May (likely not one of the same birds present earlier in the year) at the Wastewater throughout the month and three there Aug 21. Nine **Red-necked Phalaropes** (found by Bailey Mitchell) at the Wastewater Aug 14 and up to 24 continued Aug 22. A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at the Wastewater Aug 4 and 26. Three juv **Forster's Terns** at Grand Haven north pier Aug 1 (visit

<https://ebird.org/checklist/S92613269> to view Alyssa Pyman's cute photos), two at Holland SP Aug 2. A non-breeding **Common Loon** continued since June at Reeds Lake Aug 22. An **American Bittern** continued since Apr at Muskegon SGA Lane's Landing Aug 13. Up to two **Least Bitterns** continued since June at Reeds Lake Aug 25, one continued since late June at Muskegon Lake Nature Preserve Aug 14, one continued since July at Windmill Island Park in Holland Aug 2 and two Aug 9-15, one at Kalamazoo River Newport Harbor in Allegan Co Aug 3-4, at least one continued since Apr at Muskegon SGA Lane's Landing Aug 19, two at Kalamazoo River Morrison Bayou in Allegan Co Aug 6, two at Ottawa Sands Co Park Aug 14, two at Upper Macatawa Natural Area 84th Ave access in Ottawa Co Aug 15. A juv **LITTLE BLUE HERON** (found by Michael Boston and again by Tony/Erin Lammers) at Muskegon SGA Lane's Landing Aug 16-17 (visit <https://ebird.org/checklist/S93427562> and <https://ebird.org/checklist/S93373376> to view photos). Three **Black-crowned Night-Herons** at Muskegon Lake Nature Preserve Aug 2, two continued at Muskegon SGA Lane's Landing Aug 14, one juv at 116th Ave/8th St wetland in Allegan Co Aug 7 and 17 and up to two there Aug 22-30, one along Grand River near Spring Lake on canoe trip Aug 14 and three in same area Aug 28, one juv at Hodenpyl Woods (Reeds Lake) Aug 18, one at Van Bragt Park in Holland Aug 22, one continued since July at Window on the Waterfront in Holland Aug 29, two at Mill Point in Spring Lake Aug 30-31 (likely same individuals seen Aug 28 near Spring Lake), one at Kalamazoo River Newport Harbor in Allegan Co Aug 31. A **GOLDEN EAGLE** (found by Doug Wassink) along 104th Ave/Van Buren St in Ottawa Co Aug 3, one (found by Jason Carlson) at the Wastewater Aug 3 continued Aug 4-18 (visit <https://ebird.org/checklist/S92747016> to view photos) – both out of season, possibly young birds wandering or migrating very early. A juv **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** at the Wastewater Aug 5 – early migrant? An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** along N Bossett Rd N of Bailey Rd in Muskegon Co Aug 8 – first report, one at various locations in Allegan, Muskegon and Ottawa cos. A **Blue-headed Vireo** at Mt Pisgah Dune Boardwalk Aug 30 – first report. Two **Philadelphia Vireos** at the Wastewater Aug 5 – early migrants? Two **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** at Roselle Park in Kent Co Aug 31 – first report. A **Swainson's Thrush** at Stu Visser Trails in Ottawa Co Aug 28 – first report. A **Henslow's Sparrow** continued since spring along 52nd St E of Kraft Ave SE in Kent Co Aug 9 – known location. A **Lincoln's Sparrow** at Rabbit River Preserve in Allegan Co Aug 1 – very early migrant? A **YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT** (found by Mimi Emig and seen and heard by two observers on the 14th) at Huff Park Aug 12-14. A **Brewer's Blackbird** at AAA Turf Farm in Ottawa Co Aug 7 – known location. A **Louisiana Waterthrush** continued through the summer at Aman Park (last seen Aug 8) – known location. **Other warblers of interest – first migrant reports: A**

Northern Waterthrush at Stu Visser Trails in Ottawa Co Aug 16. A **Golden-winged** at Grand River Park in Ottawa Co Aug 30. A **Tennessee** at Millennium Park Aug 12. A **CONNECTICUT** (found by Jennifer Reck) at Anderson Woods Preserve in Muskegon Co Aug 30-31, also two (found by Darby Onehouse) near Ferrysburg Aug 31. A **Nashville** at the Wastewater Aug 21. A **Mourning** along Paul Henry Thornapple Trail btw 84th St and Kraft Ave SE Aug 27. A **Cape May** at a residence Niles Ave/Lakeview St in Ottawa Co Aug 19. A **Northern Parula** at Stu Visser Trails in Ottawa Co Aug 20. A **Magnolia** (1st yr female) at Muskegon SP Snug Harbor Aug 7. A **Bay-breasted** at the Wastewater Aug 21. A **Blackburnian** at Saugatuck Dunes SP Aug 20. A **Blackpoll** at a residence Niles Ave/Lakeview St in Ottawa Co Aug 18 – early county record. A **Palm** at the Wastewater Aug 21. Two **Yellow-rumped** at Muskegon Lake NP Aug 24. A **Black-throated Blue** at Millennium Park Aug 19. A **Canada** at The Bend Area in Ottawa Co Aug 22. A **Wilson's** at Hoffmaster SP in Muskegon Co Aug 14. A **Pine Siskin** at a residence in SE Grand Rapids Aug 7 – very early or possibly stayed in the area. **Dickcissels** continued to be seen since May at Allegan SGA Todd Farm and the Wastewater – known locations.