

July 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 July 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.

The oppressive heat and humidity continued into the first week of July with temperatures hovering near and into the low 90s. By the weekend it had cooled into the 80s with comfortable dew points, but that was short-lived. We entered a very dry period with more 90s and humidity returning by the 12th. Seasonable weather returned on the 17th after the passage of a cold front. Much needed rain finally arrived on the 20th. Seasonable to below normal temperatures with little rain was the rule for the remainder of the month.

The best finds: A **Whimbrel** was found at Holland SP by Gail Berner July 22 and was relocated about an hour later by the Mannings south of Lake Macatawa in Allegan Co. **American Avocets** were found at two locations. One was found by Rick Brigham at the Kalamazoo River mouth in Allegan Co July 2 with two there July 15. Six were found at the Muskegon Wastewater July 14 by Ken Sapkowski. Visit <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S47190231> for photo.

Others of note: up to six **Northern Bobwhite** at Grand Haven SGA Bruce Bayou 129th Ave access July 22-28 – presumed to be escapees from nearby game farm; up to two **Eared Grebes** continued at the Wastewater July 27 – known summer location; up to two **American Bitterns** at Upper Macatawa Natural Area 84th Ave access July 6-17; **Least Bitterns** at Covell Park in Muskegon Co, Grand Trunk launch ramp in Muskegon, Muskegon Lake Nature Preserve, Grand Haven SGA Bruce Bayou 129th Ave access since May and one at 132nd Ave access, Upper Macatawa Natural Area 84th Ave access, Kalamazoo River Tyler Bayou and Morrison Bayou in Allegan Co; a **Black-crowned Night-Heron** near Windmill Island in Holland seen while boating July 13, one juvenile at Glengarry Dr bridge between Lenter and Costner Dr SE near Caledonia July 23, one at Window-on-the-Waterfront in Holland July 27; one **Common Gallinule** continued since May at Grand Haven SGA Bruce Bayou 129th Ave access July 9, six (2 adults, 4 chicks) at Kalamazoo River Morrison Bayou in Allegan Co July 22, one at Harbor Island Grand Haven July 23-24; one **Piping Plover** at Kalamazoo River mouth in Allegan Co July 1-15, three (two adults and one juvenile) continued at Muskegon SP beach July 13 and one juvenile still there July 28, one at Grand Haven north pier July 25-27 – visit <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S47475700> for photos; three **Willetts** continued since June 28 at the Kalamazoo River mouth July 2 with five there July 15, one at Holland SP July 2 and 13, one at Pere Marquette Park in Muskegon July 5, two at Muskegon SP beach July 13, one at the Wastewater July 14-16; up to two **White-rumped Sandpipers** at the Wastewater July 7-13; one **Stilt Sandpiper** at the Wastewater July 10 and up to three July 12-29; one **Baird's Sandpiper** at the Wastewater July 23; one **Short-billed Dowitcher** at the Wastewater July 5 and up to eight there July 12-21, one at the Caledonia Sewage Ponds July 22; two **Wilson's Phalaropes** continued since June at the Wastewater July 10 with one there July 28; a **Northern Mockingbird** continued since late May at the Wastewater July 14; the **Worm-eating Warblers** continued to be heard and seen at their traditional location at Allegan SGA Todd Farm 116th Ave at Swan Creek area early month; three **Cerulean Warblers** at Allegan SGA M-89 Kalamazoo River Bridge and boat launch July 4 – known location; one **Henslow's Sparrow** continued since June at the Wastewater July 2, one continued since May along 60th St near S runway of Kent Co Airport July 12 and one continued since May at E end of 52nd St SE July 12 – both known locations; an early **White-throated Sparrow** at Hemlock Crossing Park in Ottawa Co July 12; at least 20 **Dickcissel** continued at the Wastewater – known nesting location, up to three continued since June at 128th Ave and Bingham St in Ottawa Co July 8, up to three at a farm 147th Ave and 38th St in Allegan Co throughout the month, four at Grose Park in Ottawa Co July 4; nine **Brewer's Blackbirds** at AAA Turf Farm in Ottawa Co July 15, three at Aplo and Elmwood lakes walking path July 15-16.

Note: **Whooping Crane** Lily continues to be seen associating with two Sandhill Cranes as of July 30 at the Canandaigua Rd area near the Schoonover WPA in Lenawee Co. Last seen in wheat field stubble at Packard Rd and M-156.