

July 2020 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 2020 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.

Hot and humid upper 80s to mid-90s, sunny and mostly dry conditions continued through most of the month. A heat wave of eight consecutive days (in GR) of 90 degrees or better (July 2-9) was finally broken with a passage of a weak cold front with thunderstorms and torrential rain late afternoon on the 9th into the 10th. Temperatures fell into the lower 80s with lower dew points offering a little relief. Upper 80s returned by the 15th and a high of 91 on the 18th felt more like 99 due to oppressive dew points in the 70s. Strong storms overnight brought some relief as temperatures remained in the mid-80s the following week. Temps hovering around 90 and oppressive dewpoints returned for the 25th and 26th, but pleasant, near normal conditions ended the month.

Linda Ar and Karen Markey braved the heat and had a great early July checklist of 80 species in nearly seven hours of birding at the Muskegon Wastewater July 3. Visit <https://ebird.org/checklist/S71094298> to view the impressive list.

Notables for the month: **Gadwall** bred at the Wastewater with ten juveniles observed Jul 8. One **Canvasback** continued since May at the Wastewater Jul 5-6 and 24-28 – out of season/non-breeder. Approx **500 Double-crested Cormorants** at Winnetaska Rd/Nugent Sand lagoons in Muskegon Co Jul 15 – known breeding colony. An **American White Pelican** at Winnetaska Rd/Nugent Sand lagoons in Muskegon Co Jul 13 and two Jul 14-15 – associating with the cormorants. An **American Bittern** at Fennville Sewage Ponds in Allegan Co Jul 29. A **Least Bittern** at Upper Macatawa Natural Area 84th Ave access in Ottawa Co Jul 15, two at Lions Park in Whitehall Jul 29. Five **Common Gallinules** (one adult, four chicks) at Pruin and Leonard Rd near Spring Lake Jul 2, one at White River marsh in Montague Jul 7, five (one adult, four imm) at 116th Ave and 8th St (across street from wetland) in Allegan Co Jul 23. An **AMERICAN AVOCET** (found by Hank Veldman) at Grand Haven north pier Jul 7 (visit <https://ebird.org/checklist/S71242414> to view photo) and one there briefly Jul 15, one (found by Carl and Judi Manning) at Holland SP Jul 16 and 27, one (found by Beth Miller) at the Wastewater Jul 21. A **Black-bellied Plover** at the Wastewater Jul 28. At least twelve **Upland Sandpipers** at the Wastewater Jul 4 – known breeding location. A **MARBLED GODWIT** (found by Will Keller) at the Wastewater Jul 28. Two **WILLETS** at Kalamazoo River mouth in Allegan Co Jul 5, one on the beach at Meinert Park in Muskegon Co Jul 6, one at Grand Haven north pier Jul 7 and eight there Jul 15, two at Holland SP Jul 17. Up to two **Stilt Sandpipers** at the Wastewater Jul 19-21. A **Short-billed Dowitcher** at Coopersville Sewage Ponds Jul 12, up to four at the Wastewater Jul 17-20. A **Long-billed Dowitcher** (found by Edward Hicks) at the

Wastewater Jul 17. Four **White-rumped Sandpipers** at the Wastewater Jul 29. Three **Baird's Sandpipers** at the Wastewater Jul 28. An adult female **Red-necked Phalarope** (found by Becky Kuhn) at the Wastewater Jul 4. Up to two **Bonaparte's Gulls** at the Wastewater throughout the month. Two **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** at Kalamazoo River mouth Jul 12, one at Holland SP Jul 23, one at the Wastewater Jul 26. A **NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD** (found by Steven Farr) along north section of Cannon Twp Trail in Kent Co Jul 25. **Warblers:** At least one **WORM-EATING** continued since May at Allegan SGA Swan Creek at 116th Ave/116th Ave to Swan Creek Pond area – known location. A **Northern Waterthrush** at Casnovia Sewage Ponds Jul 20 – early. A **Louisiana Waterthrush** along Rogue River Packer Dr area in Kent Co Jul 6, up to three along Cannon Twp Trail south section in Kent Co Jul 7-9. A **Tennessee** at Allegan SGA Swan Creek at 116th Ave Jul 25 – early. An **Orange-crowned** at Calvin University Ecosystem Preserve Jul 31 – early. **Hooded** at various locations in Allegan, Muskegon and Ottawa cos with a high count of three at Flower Creek Dunes Preserve in Muskegon Co Jul 8 – continuing birds. Two **Cerulean** at Allegan SGA Pipeline Landing Jul 3 – one of the known locations in Allegan Co. A **PRAIRIE** heard NW of Mt Baldhead Park in Allegan Co Jul 12 – known location. One **YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT** continued since June at Saul Lake Bog Nature Preserve in Kent Co Jul 15. A **Clay-colored Sparrow** at the Wastewater Jul 5. **28 Grasshopper Sparrows** at the Wastewater Jul 3 – known breeding location. Up to three **Henslow's Sparrows** continued since May at the Wastewater, up to two continued since May along 52nd St E of Kraft Ave SE in Kent Co, up to three continued since May at Allegan SGA Todd Farm – all known locations. A **SUMMER TANAGER** heard by John Kippe at Hoffmaster SP a Muskegon Co section Jul 4. A **WESTERN TANAGER** made a brief appearance at Eric Slaughter's residence on Sunset Bluff Dr in Holland Jul 22 (visit <https://ebird.org/checklist/S71721228> to view photo). The two **BLUE GROSBEAKS** found June 16 along 136th Ave N of Polk St near the power substation in Ottawa Co continued through Jul 18. At least 25 **Dickcissels** continued at the Wastewater through the month – known breeding location, one at Gerald R Ford Int'l Airport Kraft Ave access Jul 6, one along 52nd St E of Kraft Ave SE in Kent Co Jul 21, two (likely many more) at Allegan SGA Todd Farm Jul 25 – known breeding location. **43 Eastern Meadowlarks** at the Wastewater Jul 8 – good count; likely bred at this location. The **Western Meadowlark** continued since Apr at the Allegan SGA Todd Farm through the month. **Bobolinks** again bred at the Wastewater; juveniles observed Jul 4 – known breeding location. Up to seven **Brewer's Blackbirds** at the Wastewater Jul 2-15.

Note: Whooping Crane “Lily” continued to be seen at the old DeMor Hills Golf Course property wetlands (Ranger Hwy south of Lime Creek Rd) associating with a Sandhill Crane and two **Lark Sparrows** continued at Ives Rd Fen. Both species in Lenawee Co (more information in June eBird Summary).