

June 2017 eBird Summary

by Carol VanOeveren

The following is an overview of the unusual or rare eBird sightings for June 2017 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 first week of June was sunny and pleasant with little precipitation. A heat wave arrived June 10 with temperatures soaring to the upper 80s and low 90s with uncomfortable dew points. Some welcome relief came with the passage of a cold front by the following weekend. Pleasant weather interspersed with occasional rain and thunderstorms continued for the remaining period.

By June birds are on territory, nesting and raising young. A few migrant shorebird and warbler stragglers are still possible, but for the most part, this month is quiet with few rare sightings. The last of the **White-rumped Sandpipers** (14) were observed at the Muskegon Wastewater June 8 and one at the 120th Ave potholes in Allegan Co June 2. Late warbler migrants included a Blackburnian at Muskegon State Park and a Black-throated Blue at the Muskegon State Park blockhouse on Scenic Dr June 10 and one singing at Allegan State Game Area, M-89 Kalamazoo River bridge and boat launch June 21.

Finds of the month: Fourteen **American White Pelicans** continued since May 31 in the Lloyd's Bayou vicinity of the Grand River in Ottawa Co June 1 and three were observed at Window-on-the-Waterfront in Holland June 10. A **Piping Plover** pair again nested and fledged young on the beach at Muskegon State Park. Five chicks along with the two adults were observed June 18. A **Winter Wren** nested at 116th Ave and Swan Creek area at the Allegan State Game Area, which is very unusual this far south. An adult with two downy young was observed by Elliot Nelson June 5. One was also singing at North Ottawa Dunes Park in Ottawa Co June 9. Two **Worm-eating Warblers** continued in their usual location at 116th Ave and Swan Creek area in Allegan State Game Area throughout the month. On June 14 one was observed carrying food, so nesting is probable. A **Yellow x Prairie Warbler** hybrid was observed at 41st St S of 122nd Ave in Allegan Co by Caleb Putnam and Aaron Boone June 6. This bird has continued at this location for the past several years. A **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was found by Amy Lyyski at Muskegon Wastewater June 25.

Other notables: up to three **Eared Grebes** at Muskegon Wastewater June 25-29 – this is a known location for this species in the summer; a **Least Bittern** continued at Window-on-the-Waterfront in Holland, two at Grand Haven SGA Bruce Bayou 129th St access and one at Kalamazoo River, Newport Harbor in Allegan Co; **Common Gallinules** at Window-on-the-Waterfront, Grand Haven SGA Bruce Bayou both Cypress St and 129th St access, East Grand River Park in Ottawa Co, 116th Ave and 8th St wetland and Kalamazoo River 63rd St boat launch both in Allegan Co and at Muskegon State Park, Snug Harbor Marsh; a **Black-bellied Plover** at Muskegon Wastewater June 27-28; Upland Sandpiper fledged young at Muskegon Wastewater, along Hayes St E of 68th Ave in Ottawa Co, S Swanson Rd potholes in Muskegon Co and at Allegan State Game Area, Todd Farm; a Ruddy Turnstone continued since May 31 at Byron Lake in Kent Co June 4 and three at Holland State Park June 6; an est **200** Semipalmated Sandpiper at Muskegon Wastewater June 1 and some lingered there through the first week of June; two Baird's Sandpipers also there June 1; a **Wilson's Phalarope** continued since May at the Wastewater June 4 and a **Red-necked Phalarope** continued there June 3; a **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at Holland State Park June 6; two Bonaparte's Gulls at Muskegon Wastewater late month; a **Black Tern** at Hopkins WWTP in Allegan Co June 2-7, up to seven at Muskegon Wastewater June 3-6 and

three at 116th Ave and 8th St wetland in Allegan Co June 4; Yellow- and Black-billed cuckoos at various locations in all four counties; Red-headed Woodpeckers at various locations in all four counties; **Peregrine Falcons** fledged young at JB Sims Plant, Harbor Island (three chicks, two males and a female, were banded on 6/7) and at the GVSU Eberhard Center in downtown GR (DNR unable to band young because of limited accessibility to nest box - this will be corrected by next year); an Olive-sided Flycatcher at East Grand River Park June 1 and at Apple Trail June 2 both in Ottawa Co; a late Yellow-bellied Flycatcher at Allegan State Game Area, 116th Ave and Swan Creek June 21; **warblers of note:** a Louisiana Waterthrush at Aman Park June 9, Allegan State Game Area 116th Ave at Swan Creek June 10, Steelcase Global Headquarters in Kent Co June 15 and Allegan State Game Area M-89 Kalamazoo River bridge and boat launch June 21; Prothonotary at various locations in all four counties; **Hooded** at various locations in all four counties throughout the month – presumed nesting; **Cerulean** at Baker Ave Coldwater River Sanctuary in Kent Co and up to five at the usual locations in the Allegan State Game Area - Pipeline Landing, M-89 Kalamazoo River bridge and boat launch, Allegan Dam along with two Prothonotary and N of Swan Creek Marsh along with a Magnolia; a **Prairie** at Mt Baldhead Park in Allegan Co June 29; a **Clay-colored Sparrow** at Muskegon Wastewater June 3 and one at end of 52nd St SE E of Kraft in Kent Co June 10; up to two **Henslow's Sparrows** at end of 52nd St SE E of Kraft June 10-30, up to two at Kraft Ave access at Kent Co Int'l Airport June 11-17; eight along 60th St SE near S runway of Kent Co Int'l Airport June 14 (grassland study) and four there June 18; a White-throated Sparrow at a residence in western Ottawa Co June 1-2; up to 16 **Dickcissel** continued throughout the month at Muskegon Wastewater – probable nesting, up to 21 at the Todd Farm throughout the month – probable nesting; up to 2 at end of 52nd St SE E of Kraft June 11-30, two along 60th St SE near S runway of Kent Co Int'l Airport June 14 (grassland study), two at Kraft Ave access of Kent Co Int'l Airport June 17 and up to four at several locations in Ottawa Co; and two **Brewer's Blackbirds** at Muskegon Wastewater June 16.