

## June 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 June 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.

June started out warm and pleasant with temps in the 70s and 80s. Rain, a few thunderstorms and cooler weather moved in by the 9th. A week of fairly seasonable temperatures was brought to a halt by a warm front bringing thunderstorms, hot, humid weather and temperatures soaring into the 90s for Father's Day weekend. Seasonable temperatures returned after the passage of a cold front early the following week, but storms, 90 plus degree temps and oppressive humidity returned by month's end along with an excessive heat warning.

A super morning of birding was had by the Lautenbach clan June 2 at Muskegon Wastewater. Visit <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S46235867> for their spectacular checklist of 85 species. The unusual species are included below.

**The best finds:** four **Ruddy Shelducks** were found at the Wastewater by John VanOrman June 22 (continued June 25). This species is native to Africa, Asia and Europe, so these are likely escapees from a farm or someone's private collection on an adventure. Visit <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S46718140> for John's photo. An **American Avocet** in breeding plumage was found by Amy Lyyski and observed about the same time by Tom Pavlik at the Wastewater June 9 (visit <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S46418890> for Tom's photo). It is unknown if this is the same individual seen in late May. A second year **Laughing Gull** was found by Carl and Judi Manning at Holland SP June 19. Visit <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S46661629> for Judi's photos. A **Franklin's Gull** continued since late May at the Wastewater June 10. One was seen at Holland State Park by the Mannings June 14. What a surprise it must have been for the Mannings to find a rare **White-winged Dove**, a desert southwestern species, at their feeders in W Ottawa Co June 20-21. The rarity was observed by many. Visit <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S46695813> for photos. A female **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was seen by Joseph Lautenbach at the Wastewater June 2.

**Others of note:** up to four **Eared Grebes** continued at the Wastewater through the month – known location for this species in summer; est **500 Double-crested Cormorants** at their known nesting site, the Nugent Sand lagoons island along Winnetaska Rd in Muskegon June 9; three **American White Pelicans** on the Grand River near Lost Channel in Ottawa Co June 21; **Least Bitterns** and **Common Gallinules** observed at various locations throughout the month; a **Black-bellied Plover** at the Wastewater June 1 and June 20; the **Piping Plover** pair at Muskegon SP beach fledged four young as of June 10, but only two chicks were observed June 20-30; ten **Willet** at the Kalamazoo River mouth in Allegan Co June 28; **White-rumped Sandpipers** increased in numbers to 23 at the Wastewater in very early June and one still lingering (or early fall migrant) June 28; up to three **Wilson's Phalaropes** continued since May at the Wastewater June 17; three **Red-necked Phalaropes** at the Wastewater June 2 possibly continuing since May; a **Eurasian Collared-Dove** was found at a residence along 118th Ave just W of 62nd St within the Allegan SGA Todd Farm June 23 (the residents thought it may have mated with a Mourning Dove); a late **Snowy Owl** seen by several observers at the Wastewater June 2 appeared to be in very poor health; a male **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** at Two Rivers Green Space in Kent Co June 16 – very late migrant or possibly breeding; a **Northern Mockingbird** seen by Ric Pedler at the Wastewater June 11 (continued through June 28) evidently had been there since May 26, although the initial sighting was not posted to eBird; **warblers:** two **Worm-eating** continued since May at their known location at Allegan SGA 116th Ave at Swan Creek; one **Mourning** at Cascade Peace Park in Kent Co June 12-21, two along Grand River Dr near Michael McGraw Park in Kent Co June 13; **Hooded** at several locations in Allegan (mostly the SGA), Kent and Ottawa cos; a **Cerulean** at a residence at 64th St and 143rd Ave in Allegan Co June 4, two at Allegan SGA Allegan Dam June 9, one at Allegan SGA M-89 Highbanks June 13, two at Dolan Nature Sanctuary in Kent Co June 24 (latter three are

known locations); a **Prairie** at Oval Beach Saugatuck June 1 and 11-14 – known location (visit <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S46537873> to view John VanOrman's photo), one at Port Sheldon Natural Area West Loop in Ottawa Co found by Steve Minard June 20, two at Saugatuck Dunes SP Natural Area June 21 – known nesting site, one heard along 48th St S of 116th Ave in Allegan Co June 23; five **Clay-colored Sparrows** at the Campbell Power Plant at Port Sheldon June 23 (known nesting site along with Grasshopper, other sparrows and Dickcissels in the ash fields; visit <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S46741242> for photos), one at the Wastewater June 23; up to three **Henslow's Sparrows** continued since May at the E end of 52nd St SE near Kent Co Airport through the month, one along 60th St SE near S runway of Kent Co Airport June 14 (both known locations), one at the Wastewater June 12 and 21-28; up to eight **Dickcissels** continued at Virtue Cider (122nd Ave and 62nd St) in Allegan Co, varying numbers at Allegan SGA Todd Farm, up to 20 continued at the Wastewater (probable nesting at the three previous locations), up to five at 128th Ave and Bingham St area in Ottawa Co June 2-22, three along 123rd Ave E of 20th St in Allegan Co June 12 and at least one at several other locations in Allegan Co during the month, one E end of 52nd St SE near Kent Co Airport June 13; 16 at the Campbell Power Plant at Port Sheldon June 23 (probable nesting in ash fields); the **Western Meadowlark** at the Allegan SGA Todd Farm (58th St between 116th and 117th Aves) continued through June 12; one at E end of 52nd St SE near Kent Co Airport June 11 (found by Jeff Kunitzer) through June 23; two **Pine Siskins** still lingering at the Mannings' property in W Ottawa Co and at a residence near Mona Lake in Muskegon Co June 11.

**Note: Whooping Crane** Lily was still being observed along Canandaigua Rd near Schoonover WPA in Lenawee Co June 20.