

**June 2019 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 2019 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.

Most of June was much cooler than normal with ample rainfall. After late weekend rain, a warm-up of normal to above normal temperatures finally arrived the last week of the month.

One **American White Pelican** at the Muskegon Wastewater June 1 (four there June 18), one at Byron Lake in Kent Co June 4-6 (first observed by John VanOrman; visit <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S57109824> for Jill Henemyer's photo). An **American Bittern** at Muskegon SGA Lane's Landing June 18, one at Grand Haven SGA Bruce Bayou 129th Ave access and one at Cypress St access June 19. Single **Least Bitterns** at Huff Park in Kent Co, at Window-on-the-Waterfront in Holland, at Pine Creek Park and Hofma Preserve in Ottawa Co, up to two at Upper Macatawa Natural Area 84th Ave access and at Grand Haven SGA Bruce Bayou 129th Ave access both in Ottawa Co and at Muskegon Lake Nature Preserve (visit <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S57375673> for Ken Bishop's photos). A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** at Outdoor Discovery Center in Allegan Co June 15. Fourteen **Common Gallinules** (including six chicks) at Webster Marsh in the Allegan SGA June 10 (according to Rick Brigham this species is rapidly increasing in the lower Kalamazoo River marshes over the past three years; visit <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S57268645> to view Rick's photo of the chicks), five (including three chicks) at Grand Haven SGA Bruce Bayou 129th Ave access June 14, ten (including five chicks) at Grand Haven SGA Bruce Bayou Cypress St access June 19, two chicks at Upper Macatawa Natural Area 84th Ave access June 21, two at White River Marsh in Muskegon Co June 22, three at Grand Haven SGA Bruce Bayou 132nd Ave access June 24. **Piping Plovers** again nesting on the beach at this monitored location at Muskegon State Park (3 chicks seen June 28), one at Pere Marquette Park in Muskegon June 17. A **Willet** at Holland SP June 26. Two **Red-necked Phalaropes** at the Wastewater June 1. A **Franklin's Gull** at Muskegon Wastewater June 1 observed by Jeff Pavlik. Two **Common Terns** at Reeds Lake June 15 (unusual inland). Two **Eurasian Collared-Doves** at the intersection of Byron Rd and 84th Ave in Ottawa Co June 20-24 (originally found by Josh Kamp on June 20 who also found the doves near Dorr in Allegan Co Feb 2018; visit <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S57533304> to view Judi Manning's many photos as well as an interesting montage of a Cedar Waxwing tussling with some stringy nesting material). An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** at Huff Park in Kent Co and at Mt Pisgah Dune Boardwalk in Ottawa Co June 1, one at Port Sheldon Natural Area June 2, one at 11th St lake in Allegan Co June 10 (late). Not considered rare, but a huge count of **32** (and likely many more) **Marsh Wrens** at Allegan SGA Webster Marsh June 10. At least one **Worm-eating Warbler** continued since May at the traditional location of 116th Ave and Swan Creek/Swan Creek Pond area in the Allegan SGA and four (three adults and one fledgling) confirmed by Ken Bishop on June 21 (visit <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S57571895> to read his awesome encounter with the birds and view photos; the birds continued to be seen through the month). A **Mourning Warbler** at Huff Park June 1. Two **Prairie Warblers** seen and heard at east side of northeast parking lot at Oval Beach in Saugatuck June 3-4 (known location; visit <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S57030412> to view Tim Cornish's photos), at least two discovered by Ken Bishop at an unexpected location on June 23: along the Allegan SGA cross-country ski trail located N of 122nd Ave E of 46th St (visit <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S57626734> for directions, photos and an impressive checklist). Up to two **Clay-colored Sparrows** at ASGA Todd Farm continued through the month (visit <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S57179329> to view Jeff Kunitzer's close-up photos along with the Western Meadowlark also at this location), six at the Campbell Power Plant east ash fields at Port Sheldon June 15 (known breeding location with restricted access). A **Henslow's Sparrow** at Allegan SGA Todd Farm June 1-14 (two there June 8), one along 52nd St E of Kraft in Kent Co throughout the month and two along 60th St S of Gerald R Ford Int'l Airport June 6-10 (both are known locations), one at the Wastewater June 15-18.

**Dickcissels** again present at the Wastewater and Allegan SGA Todd Farm, but not in the numbers as in past years (visit <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S57265891> for Ken Sapkowski's photos at the Wastewater), a few also present at 123rd Ave/20th St area in Allegan Co. A **Western Meadowlark** at Allegan SGA Todd Farm through the month (one has been one reported at this location for years; see photo link above). A **Yellow-headed Blackbird** at Marc Miedema's residence in the Sessions Pointe subdivision in Ottawa Co June 1 (visit <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S56956366> for photos), one male frequenting a feeder off and on at Dave Herdegen's residence on the Grand River near Martinique Island in Ottawa Co June 4-12 (first observed May 29). Up to six **Brewer's Blackbirds** at the Wastewater June 1-23, up to six at 84th and Wilson SW in Kent Co (Celery Flats) June 8 (continuing birds since May).

**Note: Whooping Crane "Lily"** (a male) returned to the Schoonover WPA area in Lenawee Co again this spring and was seen displaying to a Sandhill Crane in May. He frequents the area south of Canandaigua Rd east of M-156. Now seven years old, he has been returning to Michigan for the past five years. Read more about "Lily" on the GRAC website at <http://graud.org/whooper.html>