

June 2021 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 2021 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.

The dry pattern continued with temps warming into the mid to high 80s by the 4th. Eight humid days of 80s and into the low 90s (5th-12th) followed, with afternoon pop-up thunderstorms containing heavy rain the 7th-12th. Temperatures were near normal through the 21st as the sunny, mostly dry pattern returned after a cold front passed through on the 12th. Occasional heavy rain/thunderstorms the 18th-21st finally helped the drought situation. Near to below normal temperatures continued and periods of heavy rain, thunderstorms and high humidity made for a very soggy last week of the month (second wettest June on record).

Notables for the month: A pair of **Trumpeter Swans** bred at Muskegon SGA Lane's Landing with five cygnets seen June 13. Out-of-season waterfowl at the Muskegon Wastewater: **Redhead, Greater and Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck (300+ June 1-2 and lesser numbers through the month – known summering location for this species).** A **Horned Grebe** continued at the Wastewater June 8. Two **Eared Grebes** continued at the Wastewater June 1-11 – known location (visit <https://ebird.org/checklist/S89565632> to view Iris Kilpatrick's photos of the two in breeding plumage). Thirteen **American White Pelicans** continued since May at White River flats/US-31 June 6, three (found by Rick Brigham/Mary Lou Graham) at Kalamazoo River Newport Harbor June 6-10 and two there June 11. One **American Bittern** continued through the month at Muskegon SGA Lane's Landing, one at Allegan SGA 116th Ave/Swan Creek June 13, one at Grand Haven SGA Bruce Bayou Cypress St access June 13. Two **Least Bitterns** at Tallmadge Woods Nature Preserve in Allegan Co seen on boat trip on Kalamazoo River June 6, one at Grand Haven SGA Bruce Bayou viewed from 129th Ave/132nd Ave/Cypress St access June 8-9 and 20, two continued since Apr at Muskegon SGA Lane's Landing June 18, two at Kalamazoo River Newport Harbor June 9, one at Indian Channel in the Grand River in Ottawa Co June 11, one at Covell Park in Whitehall June 18, one at Reeds Lake June 20-27, one at

Muskegon SP Snug Harbor marsh June 21, up to two at Muskegon Lake Nature Preserve June 28-30 (visit <https://ebird.org/checklist/S90950544> to view Tori Martel's photos). A juv **Black-crowned Night-Heron** (found by Karl Sineath) at Ottawa Sands Co Park June 11, one (found by Bailey Mitchell) at the Wastewater June 21. **Common Gallinules** continued at various known and other locations in Allegan, Muskegon and Ottawa cos with a high count of 15 incl about 10 young at Grand Haven SGA Bruce Bayou Cypress St access June 13. An **AMERICAN AVOCET** (found by Bailey Mitchell) at the Wastewater June 25, one (found by Joseph Malott) at Holland SP June 26 – early migrants (I watch a Mississippi Flyway cam located near LaCrosse WI, and they are passing through there already). A **Black-bellied Plover** continued since May at the Wastewater June 2 and two there June 17. One **American Golden-Plover** at the Wastewater June 22. A **PIPING PLOVER** continued since May at Muskegon SP beach June 13. Up to two **WILLETS** at Holland SP June 25-28, two at Kalamazoo River mouth in Allegan Co June 28. Up to nine **White-rumped Sandpipers** continued since May at the Wastewater June 5 and one there June 11 and 29 (the latter possibly an early migrant). A **Semipalmated Sandpiper** at the Wastewater June 21 – early migrant/non-breeder. A **Baird's Sandpiper** continued since May at the Wastewater June 2. Up to three **Wilson's Phalaropes** continued since May at the Wastewater June 5 and up to four there June 13-30, two (found by Gerald/Marvin Hoekstra) at Pigeon Creek Golf Course on Ottawa Co June 3. Five **Red-necked Phalaropes** continued since May at the Wastewater June 1 (visit <https://ebird.org/checklist/S89220809> to view Tanya Smythe's photos from May 29 which also includes the Wilson's Phalaropes and more views of the Black-necked Stilts observed in May). A **Bonaparte's Gull** at Holland SP June 16 – out of season. A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at the Wastewater June 21. Two **BLACK TERNS** (found by Carl/Judi Manning) at Kalamazoo River Newport Harbor June 8, one (found by Bailey Mitchell) at the Wastewater June 8. A **Forster's Tern** at Holland SP June 3 – late/out of season. A **EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE** at 120th Ave/Tyler St in Ottawa Co June 12-15. A pair of **Merlins** (found by Ryan Bebej and others) near the chapel at Calvin University campus in SE Grand Rapids June 23-30 – appeared in territorial defense. An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** at Hofma Preserve and Crockery Creek Natural Area both in Ottawa Co June 5, one at Muskegon SGA Lane's Landing June 15 – all late. A **Blue-headed Vireo** at Allegan SGA 116th Ave at Swan Creek June 4 – known location, one at Allegan SGA Swan Creek (118th Ave to Highbanks Unit) June 6. **Sedge Wrens** in appropriate habitat at various locations in all four counties. A **Swainson's Thrush**

at Flower Creek Dunes Preserve in Muskegon Co June 1 – late. **Warblers:** Two **Louisiana Waterthrush** continued since Apr at Aman Park in Ottawa Co June 1, two continued at Allegan SGA 116th Ave/Swan Creek June 16-20 – both known locations, one at 38th St/127th Ave in Allegan Co June 4, one at Rabbit River Preserve in Allegan Co June 7 and 23, one at Allegan SGA Ottawa Marsh landing June 23. Two **WORM-EATING** continued at Allegan SGA 116th Ave/Swan Creek/Swan Creek Pond area through month – known breeding location; observed feeding a juv Brown-headed Cowbird June 20. A **Golden-winged** at 36th St/130th Ave in Allegan Co June 4 – only report on eBird for the four-county area. **Hooded** at various locations in all four counties with a high count of three at Cascade Peace Park in Kent Co June 2. Up to four **Cerulean** continued at Allegan SGA Allegan Dam, up to three continued at Allegan SGA M-89 Kalamazoo River bridge and boat launch, at least one at Kalamazoo River Old New Richmond bridge, one at Allegan SGA Highbanks Unit – all known locations, one at Allegan SGA Swan Creek south of flooding June 10, two at Allegan SGA Ely Lake Campground June 10-15, one at Muskegon SGA Holton-Duck Lk Rd June 18. A **Northern Parula** at Allegan SGA Highbanks Unit June 22 – well south of traditional northern section of breeding range. A **PRAIRIE** continued at Oval Beach/Saugatuck Harbor Natural Area – known location. Three **Henslow's Sparrows** continued at Allegan SGA Todd Farm June 13 – known location, up to two at the Wastewater June 20-25. Up to 16 **Dickcissels** continued at the Wastewater and at least seven continued at Allegan SGA Todd Farm – known breeding locations, up to three at Eastmanville Farm Co Park in Ottawa Co June 10-17, three at 112th Ave/19th St in Allegan Co June 10, up to five at 60th St E of Kraft Ave SE S of the Gerald R Ford Int'l Airport in Kent Co June 13-21, up to three at 128th Ave/Bingham St area in Ottawa Co June 20-24. The **WESTERN MEADOWLARK** continued at traditional location at Allegan SGA Todd Farm through the month. Two **Brewer's Blackbirds** continued since May at the Wastewater June 27. A few **Pine Siskins** still reported at feeders June 1, one at a feeder in E Grand Rapids June 19 – late.

Whooping Crane “Lily” continued to be seen at along Ranger Highway south of Lime Creek Rd (old DeMor Hills Golf Course) northwest of Morenci in Lenawee County. **Lark Sparrows** were again observed nesting at Ives Rd Fen Preserve south of Tecumseh in Lenawee County. This species also nested and fledged four young (observed June 24) at Plumb Lake County Park east of Sturgis in St Joseph County.