

November 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 November 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.

Most of November was below normal temperature-wise. The first full week was very wet ending with temps in the 30s and our first measurable snowfall on the 9th. Cold and on and off snow showers continued through Thanksgiving. A brief warmup was followed through month's end by more cold, rain and a winter storm with accumulating heavy snow. This was the second cloudiest November on record in the Grand Rapids area.

Waterfowl were still congregating at the Muskegon Wastewater throughout the month. Twelve species were seen on an Owashtanong Islands Audubon Society (Grand Haven) field trip Nov 17 including 3,000 Canada Geese, Trumpeter and Tundra swans, 4,000 Northern Shoveler, 400 Bufflehead and others. Visit <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S49995084> to view the entire checklist of 31 species.

Finds of the month: A **Cattle Egret** was found at 18th St and 128th Ave in Allegan Co Nov 6 by Tanya and Thomas Smythe and continued Nov 7. Visit <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S49721850> for photos. A **Purple Sandpiper** seen by many was at Pere Marquette Park in Muskegon Nov 18-25. Visit <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S50028296> for photos. One was also found at Holland SP Nov 29 by the Mannings and Chace Scholten and continued Nov 30. The first **Snowy Owls** of the season were reported Nov 18 at the Wastewater (up to five present later in month) and at the Gerald R Ford Int'l Airport in Kent Co (see below for other sightings). **Evening Grosbeaks** made an appearance in our area for the first time in many, many years: four stopped at Brad Heath's feeders near Hoffmaster SP before heading toward the park Nov 1. Visit <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S49601347> for Brad's photos. One was observed at a feeder at a private residence north of Rockford Nov 11. Another was coming to feeders at the Zach DeBruine residence in Rockford and at Jess Sory's residence in Jenison Nov 12. One showed up Nov 25 at the Mannings' residence in western Ottawa Co.

Other notables: a **Cackling Goose** at the Wastewater off and on throughout the month; huge influx of **Tundra Swans** in the area Nov 9-10: 53 at Reeds Lake, **231** at Byron Lake in Kent Co, at least **242** at Gun River Aggregates gravel pit lake in Allegan Co and more reports at various other locations in the four county area; 17 **White-winged Scoters** at Holland SP Nov 1; up to six **Surf Scoters** at Douglas Beach Park Nov 7-26, up to five at Chippewa Pt Lake Macatawa Nov 10-13, three at Lakeshore Dr guardrail in Allegan Co Nov 23; two **Black Scoters** at Holland SP Nov 2 and 13, up to 36 at Douglas Beach Park Nov 7-26, up to four at Chippewa Pt Lake Macatawa throughout the month, up to 22 at Lakeshore Dr guardrail in Allegan Co Nov 23-25; 550 **Long-tailed Ducks** at Douglas Beach Park Nov 7; **68 Hooded Mergansers** on lake at Bay Meadows housing development in Holland Nov 16; **3,700 Red-breasted Mergansers** at Douglas Beach Park Nov 7; a **Red-throated Loon** at Holland SP Nov 23 and 29, one at Pere Marquette Park Nov 25, two at the Kalamazoo River mouth in Allegan Co Nov 30; **41 Horned Grebes** at Douglas Beach Park Nov 7; a **Red-necked Grebe** at Holland SP Nov 4, one at Green Lake in Allegan Co Nov 10, one at Reeds Lake Nov 18-25; up to three **Eared Grebes** continued at the Wastewater Nov 8 and one there Nov 25; an **American White Pelican** in Montague north of Maple Grove Yacht Club Nov 14, one at Harbor Island in Grand Haven Nov 17; two **Rough-legged Hawks** at 128th Ave and Bingham St in Ottawa Co Nov 1 – first report in Nov; an **American Golden-Plover** along 23rd St between 116th Ave and 118th Ave in Allegan Co Nov 6; a **Ruddy Turnstone** at Coopersville Sewage Ponds Nov 2; two **White-rumped Sandpipers** at Fennville Sewage Ponds in Allegan Co Nov 1; three **Short-billed Dowitchers** at the Coopersville Sewage Ponds Nov 2; an **Iceland Gull** at Holland SP Nov 27-29, one at South Kent Landfill in Kent Co Nov 29, one at the Wastewater Nov 29; a **Glaucous Gull** at Pere Marquette Park in Muskegon Nov 18, one at

the Wastewater Nov 25, up to two at Holland SP Nov 25-30, one at Kalamazoo River mouth in Allegan Co Nov 25, one at Grand Haven SP Nov 27; a **Snowy Owl** along Moorland Rd S of Heights-Ravenna Rd in Muskegon Co Nov 25, one at Grand Haven SP Nov 28, one continued Nov 29 at the Gerald R Ford Int'l Airport, one at 128th Ave and Bingham St area in Ottawa Co Nov 30; a **Short-eared Owl** at Allegan SGA Todd Farm Nov 21, one found by the Mannings at 128th Ave and Bingham St area in Ottawa Co Nov 30 – visit <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S50324427> for photos ; a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** heard at Allegan SGA 44th St wetland Nov 21; **Red-headed Woodpeckers** are residents at the new Ottawa Sands County Park – up to six have been seen there since the park opened in Oct; a **Northern Shrike** along 56th Ave S of Adams St in Ottawa Co Nov 30 – first report; 80 **Lapland Longspurs** along 23rd St between 116th and 118th Aves in Allegan Co Nov 10, species present in all four counties; 100 **Snow Buntings** at 128th Ave and Bingham St area in Ottawa Co Nov 10, **440** at the Wastewater Nov 23, species present in all four counties; a late **Field Sparrow** at Plaster Creek Park in Kent Co Nov 18; up to two late **Swamp Sparrows** at Reeds Lake Nov 22-23, two at Muskegon Lake NP Nov 29; an **Orange-crowned Warbler** at Mill Point in Ottawa Co Nov 3; two very late **Nashville Warblers** at Hodenpyl Woods Reeds Lake Nov 22; a very late **Common Yellowthroat** at Reeds Lake Nov 22; a very late **American Redstart** at Reeds Lake Nov 20; at least **4,900 Red-winged Blackbirds** at Fennville Sewage Ponds observed in streaming flocks heading south Nov 1; est **200 Rusty Blackbirds** at 128th Ave and Bingham St area in Ottawa Co Nov 9, seven along Hayes St between 76th and 84th Aves in Ottawa Co Nov 11, 25 at Brookside Park in Allegan Co Nov 16; an extremely late **Baltimore Oriole** at a residence near Huff Park Nov 27 – visit <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S50257732> for photo; five **Common Redpolls** at Ottawa Sands County Park Nov 2 – rather early, up to **250** at the Wastewater from Nov 5, other sightings in the area; up to 45 **Pine Siskins** at Pine Creek Park in Ottawa Co throughout the month, many other sightings in the four county area.

Note: Whooping Crane “Lily” was still being observed with two Sandhills at Packard Rd and M-156 near Schoonover WPA in Lenawee Co as of Nov 18.