

November 2020 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 2020 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.

We were greeted with strong winds, cold rain and snow showers on the 1st. After drying out, a big warm-up into the 60s and 70s with mostly sunny skies followed the 4th through the 10th (four new record highs 7th-10th). A new record number of 70-degree days in November (6) was also set. Temperatures returned to near normal on the 11th after a windy cold front with thunderstorms. A near to below normal period with occasional rain and some snow showers (strong winds with another messy cold front on the 15th and 16th) lasted through the 16th. Near to above normal conditions with occasional rain, a mix and wet snow (the 24th) followed through the 29th. Wind and temps in the 30s closed the month.

The winter finch invasion/irruption continued. Evening Grosbeaks were spotted at 14 new locations plus two previous ones, most at residents' feeders (see below). Common Redpolls along with several Hoaries (see below), Pine Siskins and Purple Finches were all reported in good numbers in all four counties. Flyovers of Red Crossbills were observed at Hemlock Crossing Park and Holland State Park, but none staying at any specific location. A female White-winged Crossbill visited feeders at the Garris residence in Ottawa Co.

Waterfowl, including Redheads, scaup, scoters, Long-tailed Ducks (high count of at least 900 at Meinert Park in Muskegon Co Nov 28), Red-breasted Mergansers (high count of est 1,000 at Douglas Beach Park Saugatuck Nov 30) and others, continued in large numbers offshore in Lake Michigan. Large numbers of Canada Geese, Northern Shoveler, Ring-necked Duck, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck and others continued at the Muskegon Wastewater.

Notables for the month: A **Greater White-fronted Goose** (found by Danielle DeMuth) at Pickerel Lake Nature Preserve in Kent Co Nov 20. Up to 16 **Snow Geese** at the Wastewater Nov 7-27. A **ROSS'S GOOSE** (found on field trip by members of Oakland Audubon Society) at the Wastewater Nov 7-10 and an amazing number of up to 17 there Nov 11-14 (original flock of 13 found by John VanOrman Nov 11; visit <https://ebird.org/checklist/S76136709> to view photo). Two **Cackling Geese** at the Wastewater Nov 8, up to six at Coopersville Goose Field (Conran and O'Malley Dr) in Ottawa Co Nov 14-21, up to 14 at Coopersville Sewage Ponds Nov 14-15, one at Myers Lake in Kent Co Nov 18. **Tundra Swans** observed in all four counties with a high count flyover of 250 at a residence on Barry St W of 88th Ave in Ottawa Co Nov 11. A female type **HARLEQUIN DUCK** (found by Aaron Klanderman) at Kalamazoo River mouth in Allegan Co Nov 7. Two **Surf Scoters** at Oval Beach in Saugatuck Nov 1, eight at Lakeshore Dr guardrail S of Douglas in Allegan Co Nov 2, three at Kalamazoo River mouth Nov 4 and one Nov 22, one at Flower Creek Dunes Preserve Nov 20-26, one

(found by Caleb Putnam/Julie Pedreros) at Reeds Lake Nov 22 – unusual inland location, one at Douglas Beach Park Nov 30. Nineteen **White-winged Scoters** at Oval Beach, five at Pere Marquette Park, two at Versluis Lake in Kent Co Nov 7-11 – unusual inland location, 19 at Meinert Park in Muskegon Co. **34 Black Scoters** at Oval Beach in Saugatuck Nov 1, up to 25 at Lakeshore Dr guardrail S of Douglas in Allegan Co throughout the month, two at Kalamazoo River mouth throughout the month, one (found by Jeff Kunitzer) at Reeds Lake Nov 7-8 and one (found by Caleb Putnam/Julie Pedreros) at Versluis Lake in Kent Co Nov 7-11 – both rare inland locations (visit <https://ebird.org/checklist/S75938947> to view photos from Reeds Lake), three at Holland SP Nov 11, three at Flower Creek Dunes Preserve in Muskegon Co Nov 26, up to 24 at Douglas Beach Park Nov 29-30. A **Red-throated Loon** at Meinert Park in Muskegon Co Nov 8, two at Oval Beach in Saugatuck Nov 30. A **RED-NECKED GREBE** (found by Brian Allen) at the Wastewater Nov 1, two continued since Oct 31 at the Cottage Grove boat launch in Muskegon Nov 4. An **Eared Grebe** continued at the Wastewater Nov 11-14. A **Turkey Vulture** at the Wastewater Nov 28 – late. A **GOLDEN EAGLE** (found by Beth Miller) at the Wastewater Nov 10 (visit <https://ebird.org/checklist/S76086851> to view photos) – first report and two there Nov 14 and one Nov 22. A **Virginia Rail** at Allegan SGA 44th St wetland Nov 10 – late; two wintered at this location last year. Four **Baird's Sandpipers** continued since Oct at 116th Ave/8th St wetland in Allegan Co Nov 1, one at the Wastewater Nov 12-20 – very late. A **PURPLE SANDPIPER** (found by Carl and Judi Manning) at Holland SP Nov 2-9 and again Nov 22-29 (visit <https://ebird.org/checklist/S75741236> to view Judi Manning's photos), two (found by Aaron Klanderman) at Kalamazoo River mouth in Allegan Co Nov 7 and one there Nov 22, one (found by Brendan Klick) at the Wastewater Nov 15-16 (visit <https://ebird.org/checklist/S76289279> to view photo), one (found by Charlie DeWitt) at Pere Marquette Park in Muskegon Nov 17 and 30 (visit <https://ebird.org/checklist/S76371232> to view Beth Miller's photos). **920 Bonaparte's Gulls** at Oval Beach Nov 1. An **Iceland Gull** (Thayer's) at Oval Beach Nov 1, one (Thayer's) at Gun River Aggregates gravel pit lake in Allegan Co Nov 5, one at South Kent Recycling and Waste Center Nov 16, two at Green Lake in Allegan Co Nov 23. Up to two **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** at Gun Lake Park in Allegan Co, one at Gun River Aggregates gravel pit lake in Allegan Co, one continued at Holland SP, one at Byron Lakes in Kent Co, one continued at South Kent Recycling and Waste Center, two at Green Lake in Allegan Co. A **Glaucous Gull** at Holland SP Nov 11 – first report, one at the Wastewater Nov 15, one at Green Lake in Allegan Co Nov 23. A **Forster's Tern** at Black Lake Park in Muskegon Co Nov 1 – late. A **Snowy Owl** at the Wastewater Nov 26-29 – first report, one at 96th Ave and Port Sheldon St area in Borculo Nov 27, one at Sternberg Rd and Harvey St in Muskegon Nov 27, one at Pere Marquette Park Nov 30. A **Short-eared Owl** (found by Patricia Bazany) at the Wastewater Nov 8 continued Nov 22. An **Eastern Phoebe** at the Wastewater Nov 14 – late. A **Northern Shrike** at Bass River RA in Ottawa Co, one at the Bend Area in Ottawa Co, one at Roselle Park, one at the Wastewater, one at a residence on Allegan St (M-89) E of 4th St in Allegan Co Nov 18-21. A **Blue-headed Vireo** at a residence on W 35th St E of Pine Ave in Holland Nov 12 – late. A **Marsh Wren** at Windmill Island Park in Holland Nov 3 – late. Two **Swainson's Thrushes** at Black Lake Park in Muskegon Co Nov 5 – very late. A **Gray Catbird** at a residence in SE Grand Rapids Nov 25 – late. A **NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD** at the Manning residence in W Ottawa Co Nov 22-30 (visit <https://ebird.org/checklist/S76580346> to view photos). Massive flock of **310 Cedar Waxwings** at Lowell Rite Aid and vicinity Nov 22. A **BOHEMIAN WAXWING** (found by Craig Kingma) at Windmill Island Park in Holland Nov 4 (visit <https://ebird.org/checklist/S75816011> to view photos).

At least 50 **Lapland Longspurs** continued since Oct at 118th Ave/23rd St fields in Allegan Co Nov 1 and 10 there Nov 14, twelve at Allegan SGA Todd Farm Nov 2. **Snow Buntings** at various locations in all four counties; high count of 200 at the Wastewater Nov 3 and at Kraft Ave access Kent Co airport Nov 30. **Late warblers:** A **Nashville** at Window-on-the-Waterfront in Holland Nov 7. A **Tennessee** at Ideal Park in Kent Co Nov 7. A **Common Yellowthroat** at Stu Visser Trails Nov 3. A **Hooded** at a residence near Saugatuck Dunes SP Nov 28. A **Palm** at the Bend Area in Ottawa Co Nov 6. A **Pine** at Kitchel-Lindquist Dunes Preserve in Ottawa Co Nov 11. **Late sparrows:** Three **Chipping** at Plaster Creek Park in Kent Co Nov 15. A **Field** at the Wastewater Nov 11. A **Savannah** at the Wastewater Nov 19. Two **Swamp** at Reeds Lake Nov 29. Twelve **Rusty Blackbirds** at Stu Visser Trails Nov 3, 19 at 118th Ave marsh (118th W of 8th St) in Allegan Co Nov 3, up to **70** at the Wastewater Nov 15-16. A **Baltimore Oriole** at a residence on Cove St on Pottawattomie Bayou in Ottawa Co Nov 13-23– late (visit <https://ebird.org/checklist/S76198024> for photos). A **WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL** at the Garris residence (found by Lonny Garris) along Barry St W of 88th Ave in Ottawa Co Nov 26-29 (visit <https://ebird.org/checklist/S76710257> to view photos). **Common Redpolls** very numerous in all four counties; some of the higher numbers: At least 45 at Stu Visser Trails in Ottawa Co throughout the month (visit <https://ebird.org/checklist/S75760809> to view Ken Bishop's photos), likely upwards of **200+** at the Wastewater Nov 14-30 with at least one **HOARY** found by Ken Bishop Nov 22 (visit <https://ebird.org/checklist/S76557783> to view his photos), **110** at condo development on Isle Water/Isle River Dr near Grand Isle Park in Kent Co Nov 17 along with at least two **HOARY** found by Caleb Putnam (visit <https://ebird.org/checklist/S76382987> to view photos), 45 at Millennium Park Nov 17, est **290** at Brewer Ave and 7 Mile Rd in Belmont Nov 18, 65 at Hemlock Crossing Park in Ottawa Co Nov 21, one **HOARY** (found by Curtis Dykstra/Ty Wagenmaker) at the Bend Area in Ottawa Co Nov 23, 30 along with one **HOARY** (found by Beth Miller) at S Swanson Rd potholes in Muskegon Co Nov 23. Good numbers of **Pine Siskins** continued in all four counties. The **EVENING GROSBEAK** invasion continued: Seven at a residence on Leclare St in Fruitport Charter Twp Muskegon Co Nov 1, up to five at a residence on Morse Lake Ave N of 68th St in Kent Co Nov 1-2, two at a residence in the Sessions Point development in Ottawa Co Nov 1, 15 at a residence on Stillwater Dr in West Olive Nov 1, one at Huff Park Nov 2, nine at a residence on 4th St N of 132nd Ave in Allegan Co Nov 2, two continuing since late Oct at a residence off Lincoln St W of 168th Ave in Ottawa Co Nov 2, eight at a residence on Russell Rd in Twin Lake Nov 3, twelve at a residence on Kathryn St in Muskegon Nov 3, one at a residence in Alger Heights Grand Rapids Nov 5, **50** at a residence on Buchanan St at Chickory in Ottawa Co Nov 5 and 10 continued Nov 10, eleven continued since late Oct at Harbor Island Grand Haven Nov 6, five briefly at a residence Ransom St and 152nd Ave in Ottawa Co Nov 9, three at a residence on 128th Ave W of 26th St in Allegan Co Nov 11, six at Black Lake Park in Muskegon Co Nov 19, five near Kettle Lake Elementary School in Kent Co Nov 22.