

November 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 November 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.

November began below normal in the 40s. We received our first snowflakes mixed with rain on the 2nd and a little accumulation on grassy surfaces overnight. By the 5th pleasant weather in the 50s returned and above normal 60s on the 7th and 8th. A wet period with several days of a rain/snow mix moved in with a strong, windy fall storm on the 11th-12th. High temperatures tumbled below normal into the low 40s by the 13th along with our first accumulating snow of around 2 inches. A clipper system brought areawide rain and snow showers on the 14th. The mostly below normal trend continued with dry days interspersed with rain and/or snow showers through the remainder of the month.

Waterfowl continued to congregate at the Muskegon Wastewater, and most likely the majority will remain until lagoon freeze-up. As usual, rafts of waterfowl including Long-tailed Duck, scaup, mergansers, scoters and others are wintering offshore in Lake Michigan. See below for those of interest at both locations.

Notables for the month: Up to seven **Snow Geese** at the Wastewater Nov 3-29, 15 at Schultz Park in Allegan Co Nov 27. Eight **ROSS'S GEESE** (found by Tim Cornish) at Gun River Aggregates gravel pit lake (restricted access) in Allegan Co Nov 20. **Cackling Geese** continued intermittently since Sep at the Wastewater with a high count of 19 Nov 15, up to four at Coopersville goose field Nov 5-6 and 22-23. Six **Tundra Swans** at the Wastewater Nov 9 – first report, **1,400** at the Wastewater Nov 17, 77 at Byron Lakes in Kent Co Nov 19; other good numbers reported in all four counties and many flyover groups. An est **400 Ring-necked Ducks** at Pickerel Lake NP in Kent Co Nov 7 – the lake is a magnet for this species during spring and fall migration, **350** at the Wastewater Nov 15. A **HARLEQUIN DUCK** (found by Tom/Tanya Smythe) at the Wastewater Nov 3-29 (visit <https://ebird.org/checklist/S97479652> to view Caleb Putnam's photos). **White-winged Scoters** continued at Holland SP with a high count of 22 Nov 1,

four at Muskegon Lake channel Nov 2, seven at Oval Beach in Saugatuck Nov 5, continued at Lakeshore Dr guardrail in Allegan Co with a high count of 35 Nov 13. **Black Scoters** continued since late Oct at Holland SP with a high count of 12 Nov 15, continued at Lakeshore Dr guardrail in Allegan Co with a high count of 18 Nov 20. Two **Long-tailed Ducks** at the Wastewater Nov 3 and three Nov 13, large rafts present offshore along Lake MI through the month with a high count of 250 at Grand Haven south pier Nov 4. A **RED-NECKED GREBE** (found by Jack Pohler) at Grand Haven SP Nov 4. Up to five **Eared Grebes** continued at the Wastewater Nov 29 – known location. An **American Golden-Plover** at the Wastewater Nov 10 – late. Two **Sanderlings** at Pere Marquette Park in Muskegon Co Nov 19 – late. A **Least Sandpiper** at the Wastewater Nov 9 – very late. A **RED PHALAROPE** (found by Bailey Mitchell) at the Wastewater Nov 2-7 (visit <https://ebird.org/checklist/S97091768> to view Amy Lyyski's photos). A juv **BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE** (found by Eric Gustafson/Carl and Judi Manning/Mark Parker) at Holland SP Nov 10 (visit <https://ebird.org/checklist/S97393315> to view Mark Parker's photos) and one juv seen there by several observers flying north Nov 28, one juv was also found Nov 9 by Matt Bueby at Grand Haven SP. An **Iceland Gull** at the Wastewater Nov 4 (first report) continued Nov 29 and one Thayer's Nov 6 and 14 and two Nov 12 – one may be same bird as first report but not ID'd as Thayer's, one at Holland SP Nov 7, one at South Kent Recycling and Waste Center in Kent Co Nov 19 and 30 and two Nov 29. **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** at South Kent Recycling and Waste Center in Kent Co throughout the month with a high count of six Nov 19, up to six continued at the Wastewater Nov 12, one continued at Holland SP through the month, up to two at Gun Lake Park in Allegan Co Nov 10-21, one at Green Lake in Allegan Co Nov 19, three at Gun River Aggregates gravel pit lake (restricted access) in Allegan Co Nov 20. A **Glaucous Gull** at the Wastewater Nov 3-24 – first report, one at South Kent Recycling and Waste Center in Kent Co Nov 19 and 29, one at Holland SP Nov 22-28. A **Red-throated Loon** at Grand Haven south pier Nov 4, one at Oval Beach Nov 5, one at Holland SP Nov 7 and up to three 27-29, one at Port Sheldon Pigeon River outlet Nov 28. A **CATTLE EGRET** (found by Kevin Wistrom) at the Wastewater Nov 13 (visit <https://ebird.org/checklist/S97519327> to view photos), one (found by Emily Tornga) along Hayes St E of 68th Ave in Ottawa Co Nov 15 (visit <https://ebird.org/checklist/S97632957> to view photo). A very late juv **Black-crowned Night-Heron** at the Wastewater Oct 31 was still being seen Nov 7. Four **Turkey Vultures** along Cidermill Dr S of 76th St SE in Kent Co Nov 12 – late,

one over Millennium Park Nov 26 – very late. A **Snowy Owl** at the Wastewater Nov 11 (first report) continued Nov 29 (visit <https://ebird.org/checklist/S97432653> to view John VanOrman's photos) – known wintering location, one at Allegan SGA Todd Farm Nov 24 – specific location not given, two along Van Buren St W of 120th Ave in Ottawa Co Nov 27. Five **Short-eared Owls** continued since Oct at the Wastewater through the month – known location (visit <https://ebird.org/checklist/S97848156> to view Craig Kingma's photos). An **Eastern Phoebe** at Rabbit River Preserve in Allegan Co Nov 24 – very late. A **Northern Shrike** continued since Oct at the Wastewater Nov 20, one continued since Oct at Muskegon SGA Lane's Landing Nov 6, one along Maple Island Rd N of Sternberg Rd in Muskegon Co Nov 7, one at Two Rivers Greenspace in Kent Co Nov 10-11, one at Roselle Park Nov 16-21. Impressive counts of **Eastern Bluebirds** (83) and **American Goldfinch** (70) at Roselle Park in Kent Co Nov 16. A **Brown Thrasher** at Calvin University Ecosystem Preserve Nov 16 – late. Good numbers of **American Pipits** still reported at the Wastewater through mid-month with high count of 150 Nov 4, one at South Kent Recycling and Waste Center in Kent Co Nov 29 – late. Ten **Common Redpolls** at Pickerel Lake NP in Kent Co Nov 27 – first report, one at a resident's feeder in Georgetown Twp in Ottawa Co Nov 27, two at Ball Perkins Park Nov 29. Four **Pine Siskins** at Ball Perkins Park Nov 1, two at a residence in Holland Nov 25. Two **Lapland Longspurs** at Allegan SGA Todd Farm Nov 27. **Snow Buntings** reported in Allegan, Muskegon and Ottawa cos with a high count of est **360** at Coopersville Sewage Ponds Nov 12. A **Savannah Sparrow** at the Wastewater Nov 14 – late. A **Baltimore Oriole** at a residence in Holland Nov 10 – very late. Six **Rusty Blackbirds** at The Bend Area in Ottawa Co Nov 2, 75 at S Swanson Rd potholes in Muskegon Co Nov 7, 28 at Coopersville Sewage Ponds Nov 12, three at Hodenpyl Woods Nov 21. A **Blue-winged Warbler** at Reeds Lake Nov 13 – very late. A **Nashville Warbler** continued since late Oct at Holland SP Lake Macatawa Campground Nov 6, one at Stu Visser Trails in Ottawa Co Nov 15 – both very late. The **WESTERN TANAGER** found in late Oct at Mt Pisgah Dune Boardwalk/Lake Macatawa Campground continued to be seen near campsite #151 at the campground Nov 3. A **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** at a feeder in NE Grand Rapids Nov 13 – very late.