

October 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 October 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.

The first ten days of the month were unsettled with temps all over the place (50s to low 80s) and numerous showers and thunderstorms. Below normal weather arrived after the passage of a very strong cold front on the 11th with high temperatures only in the 40s and 50s through mid-month. Our first killing frost was Oct 18 and temperatures remained mostly below normal through the end of the month.

Waterfowl was in abundance at the Muskegon Wastewater Oct 6 (Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Oct Big Day Count). Amy Lyyski observed thirteen species with the majority **Northern Shoveler (2,400)** and **Ruddy Duck (1,600)**. Visit <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S48995240> to view her checklist. Waterfowl and shorebirds continued to be seen in good numbers there throughout the month.

Finds of the month: Three **Ross's Geese** were seen at the Wastewater Oct 12 by David Whitehouse and continued Oct 13. One was also present, seen by Jess Sory, at the Coopersville Goose Field Oct 14 and two there Oct 18-19. The **Harlequin Duck** spotted at Holland SP Sep 30 continued through Oct 16. A **Red Phalarope** was seen by Kenneth Bishop and many others at the Wastewater Oct 22 and continued Oct 24. Visit <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S49376163> for photos. A **Little Gull** spotted at the Wastewater Oct 20 on Steve Minard's GRAC field trip continued Oct 25. Visit <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S49356534> for photos. A **Franklin's Gull** was observed at Holland SP Oct 2 by Aaron Yappert and continued Oct 3. While doing a shoreline survey by boat Oct 14, a very rare **Mew Gull** (approx. 9th state record if accepted by the Michigan Bird Records Committee) was found at the Kalamazoo River mouth in Allegan Co by Rick Brigham, MaryLou Graham, Julie Pedreros, Caleb Putnam and Chase Scholten. Visit <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S49196431> to view Caleb's photos. A hatching year female **Rufous Hummingbird** (as reviewed and confirmed by Allen Chartier, Michigan's hummingbird expert) was seen by many observers visiting a feeder at the Hank Veldman residence on Fennessy Lake in Ottawa Co Oct 18-19. Visit <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S49278664> for photos.

Other notables: two **Greater White-fronted Geese** at Allegan SGA Todd Farm Oct 5, one at the Coopersville Goose Field Oct 6 and 19, one along 80th Ave N of Cleveland St (DeVries Meats) in Ottawa Co Oct 6, three at the Wastewater Oct 14-15; eleven **Snow Geese** (two blue morphs) in field along White Rd at the Wastewater Oct 7, up to 24 at the Coopersville Goose Field Oct 14-20; up to two **Cackling Geese** along 80th Ave N of Cleveland St (DeVries Meats) in Ottawa Co Oct 6-8, up to three at the Coopersville Goose Field Oct 22-27; nine **Surf Scoters** at Holland SP Oct 2-6, one at the Wastewater Oct 6, two at Douglas Beach Park in Allegan Co Oct 18, four at the Lakeshore Dr guardrail S of Douglas Beach Park in Allegan Co Oct 21, one at Grand Haven SP Oct 27-29; 20 **White-winged Scoters** at Holland SP Oct 21; three **Black Scoters** at Douglas Beach Park Oct 18 and 12 there Oct 21, up to six at Holland SP Oct 18-21, 19 at the Lakeshore Dr guardrail S of Douglas Beach Park Oct 21, two at the Wastewater Oct 23; a **Red-throated Loon** at Holland SP Oct 2; an **Eared Grebe** at the Wastewater Oct 8-27; an **American White Pelican** at Window-on-the-Waterfront in Holland Oct 3-14 – visit <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S48913597> for Judi Manning's photos, one on the Grand River near Martinique Island in Ottawa Co Oct 22; a **Black-crowned Night-Heron** at Window-on-the-Waterfront Oct 13-14; two juvenile/immature **Common Gallinules** at Covell Park in Muskegon Co Oct 6, five at Grand Haven SGA Bruce Bayou 132nd Ave access Oct 14; up to three **Black-bellied Plovers** at AAA Turf Farm Oct 3-8, one at Grand Haven SP Oct 7, one at Holland SP Oct 8, one at the Wastewater Oct 16-22; two **American Golden-Plovers** along 80th Ave N of Cleveland St (DeVries Meats) in Ottawa Co Oct 3 and 15 Oct 21, up to eight at AAA Turf Farm Oct 4-9, one at Allegan SGA Oct 9, three along 23rd St S of 118th Ave in Allegan Co Oct 28; up to four **White-rumped Sandpipers** at the Wastewater Oct 21-31, two at the Caledonia Sewage Ponds Oct 25-28; five

Baird's Sandpipers at the Wastewater Oct 4 and up to three there Oct 26-27 – late, one at the Caledonia Sewage Ponds Oct 25-27 – late; **150 Dunlins** at the Wastewater Oct 22; a **Red-necked Phalarope** at AAA Turf Farm Oct 3-4; a late **Black-billed Cuckoo** at Window-on-the-Waterfront Oct 13; a very late **Eastern Whip-poor-will** at VanRaalte Farm in Ottawa Co Oct 15; a **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** still coming to a feeder in Comstock Park Oct 28; a rather late **Olive-sided Flycatcher** at Michael McGraw Park in Kent Co Oct 9 and one at a residence near Cascade Oct 11; an est **1,600 Blue Jays** migrating over the channel at Holland SP Oct 2; a late **House Wren** at Medbery Park (White Lake channel) in Muskegon Co Oct 23; six **Lapland Longspurs** at Allegan SGA Todd Farm Oct 15 – first report; 20 **Snow Buntings** at the Wastewater and at Holland SP Oct 21 – first reports and **300** at the Wastewater Oct 25; two **Nashville Warblers** at Upper Macatawa Natural Area Oct 26 – late; a high concentration of **Lincoln's Sparrows** (13) at Upper Macatawa Natural Area 84th Ave access Oct 2; **60 White-throated Sparrows** at Muskegon SGA Lane's Landing Oct 2; a late **Scarlet Tanager** at Lake Macatawa Boardwalk West in Ottawa Co Oct 6 and one at Plaster Creek Park in Grand Rapids Oct 7; twelve **Rusty Blackbirds** at Muskegon SGA Lane's Landing Oct 2, 15 at Huff Park Oct 13, five at the Caledonia Sewage Ponds Oct 25, seven at Paw Paw Park east in Ottawa Co Oct 31; up to five **Brewer's Blackbirds** at AAA Farm Oct 6,8; **Pine Siskins** observed in all four counties.

Note: Whooping Crane Lily was still being observed with Sandhill Cranes at the Schoonover WPA/M-156 and Packard Rd area in Lenawee Co Oct 27.