

October 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 October 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 warm, much above normal weather of late September with temps in the 70s (80 with uncomfortable dew points and scattered severe storms on the 11th) continued into the first two weeks of October, with occasional storms and showers. According to the National Weather Service, this was the warmest ever start to October in 100 years of climate recordkeeping. More seasonable conditions (except for a of couple days around 70) in the 60s and then 50s returned on the 15th and continued through the remainder of the month with pleasant days interspersed with occasional rainy periods. Our first Frost Advisory was the night of October 23-24.

Becky Kuhn had a good warbler count October 3 along Walnut Park Dr E of Northland Dr NE along the Grand River in Kent Co. She tallied 13 species and 50 individuals while likely searching for a possible Anhinga that had been reported in the area (many observers searched, but no Anhinga found; likely a Double-crested Cormorant). Visit <https://ebird.org/checklist/S95545884> to view her checklist. Warblers continued to pass through the area with the warmer than normal temps, but the numbers continued to wind down except the traditional late migrants, such as Yellow-rumped (huge push of at least 50 at Paw Paw Park east/Macatawa Greenspace in Ottawa Co Oct 6, 49 at Millennium Park Oct 12, other large numbers reported near the end of the month). Late stragglers are listed below along with many other late migrants. Both kinglet species and White-crowned and White-throated sparrows were found in good numbers moving through the area. Shorebirds continued to pass through (notables listed below), waterfowl continued to congregate in large numbers at the Muskegon Wastewater including thousands of Canada Geese, Northern Shoveler and Ruddy Ducks and divers (scoters, scaup, etc) started to congregate offshore in Lake Michigan.

Notables for the month: A **Snow Goose** continued since late Sep at the Wastewater Oct 4 and 26 and up to three there Oct 17-18. **Cackling Geese** continued intermittently since Sep at the Wastewater with a high count of 11 Oct 27, up to 16 at 116th Ave/8th St wetland in Allegan Co Oct 7-10, six on Kalamazoo River in downtown Allegan Oct 31. Huge number of **Ring-necked Ducks (450)** at Winnetaska Rd/Nugent Sand lagoons in Muskegon Oct 19. Three **Surf Scoters** (found by Caleb Putnam) at Versluis Lake in Kent Co Oct 17-24 – rare inland location, fifteen at Grand Haven SP Oct 18, two at Holland SP Oct 23 and four Oct 31, two at Port Sheldon Windsnest Park in Ottawa Co Oct 24, two at Lakeshore Dr guardrail in Allegan Co Oct 25. Fifteen **White-winged Scoters** at Grand Haven south pier Oct 22 – first report, 32 at Holland SP and **175** at Grand Haven north pier and 7 at Reeds Lake (uncommon inland) all Oct 30. Four **Black Scoters** at Douglas Beach Park Oct 25 – first report, one at Grand Haven north pier Oct 30, three at Holland SP Oct 31. Two **Long-tailed Ducks** at Grand Haven north pier Oct 30 – first report, 460 at Grand Haven SP Oct 31. A **RED-NECKED GREBE** (found by Rick Brigham) at Holland SP Oct 31. Up to two **Eared Grebes** continued at the Wastewater Oct 31 – known location. A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** at Harbor Island in Grand Haven Oct 6 – late. A **Black-billed Cuckoo** at Black Lake Park in Muskegon Co Oct 17-19 – late. Two **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** continued at a residence at Niles Ave/Lakeview St in Ottawa Co Oct 14 – late. A **Virginia Rail** along the Grand River near Spring Lake in Ottawa Co Oct 13 – late. A **Sora** at Muskegon SGA Lane's Landing Oct 15 – late. Six **Common Gallinules** at Mill Point in Spring Lake Oct 2 and one there Oct 11, one at Muskegon SGA Lane's Landing Oct 4 and 12-15, one continued at Window on the Waterfront at Holland Oct 9 – all late. An **AMERICAN AVOCET** (found by Carl/Judi Manning) at Holland SP Oct 25 (visit <https://ebird.org/checklist/S96706561> for photos) – likely late Ottawa Co record. Up to ten **Black-bellied Plover** continued since late Aug at the Wastewater Oct 20, two at Mill Point in Spring Lake Oct 2, up to eight at Grand Haven north pier Oct 4-9, one at Holland SP Oct 10. Up to ten **American Golden-Plover** continued since Sep at the Wastewater Oct 12, two at 114th Ave/19th St in Allegan Co Oct 3, up to three at Grand Haven north pier Oct 4-9. A **Baird's Sandpiper** at the Wastewater Oct 1 and two Oct 4-5. Five **White-rumped Sandpipers** at the Wastewater Oct 7. A **Semipalmated Sandpiper** at the Wastewater Oct 1 – late. Three **FRANKLIN'S GULLS** (found by Chip Francke) at Grand Haven SP Oct 12 (visit <https://ebird.org/checklist/S96037922> to view Jim Markham's photos). **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** continued at the Wastewater throughout the month with a high count of three Oct 14, one at Pere Marquette

Park Oct 9, up to four at Holland SP Oct 6-31. Two **Red-throated Loons** at Holland SP Oct 31. An **American White Pelican** at the Wastewater Oct 16. An **American Bittern** at Muskegon SGA Lane's Landing Oct 19 – late. **Great Egrets** again present this fall through Oct 16 at the Ball Perkins Park pond in Grand Rapids with a high count of 28 Oct 1, one continuing at Muskegon SGA Lane's Landing Oct 31 – late. A **Green Heron** at Millennium Park Oct 14 – late. Up to four **Black-crowned Night-Herons** continued since Aug at Mill Point and surrounding area in Spring Lake Oct 14, one juv still at Window on the Waterfront in Holland Oct 9 – all late. A **Rough-legged Hawk** at Muskegon SGA Lane's Landing Oct 3 – first report, three at the Wastewater Oct 18. A **Short-eared Owl** at the Wastewater S Swanson Rd area Oct 12 and up to five there Oct 27-30 – known location. A great total count of eight **Red-headed Woodpeckers** (observed by Hannah Safford) at various spots at Morrison Bayou along the Kalamazoo River in Allegan Co Oct 1. An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** at Grand Isle Park in Kent Co Oct 3 – very late. A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** at a residence in Norton Shores Oct 3 – late. An **Acadian Flycatcher** at Muskegon SGA Lane's Landing Oct 1 – late. A **Northern Shrike** at the Wastewater Oct 20 – first report, one at Muskegon SGA Lane's Landing Oct 31. A **Yellow-throated Vireo** at Roselle Park in Kent Co Oct 4, one at Ada Twp Park Oct 5, two at Lake Hills School parking lot in Spring Lake Oct 9 – all late. A **House Wren** at Muskegon SGA Lane's Landing Oct 19 – late. Up to two **Sedge Wrens** at Huff Park Oct 7-11 – late. A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** at Holland SP Lake Macatawa Campground Oct 30 – very late. A **Brown Thrasher** at Calvin University Ecosystem Preserve Oct 24 and at Edsell/Mitchel St in Otsego in Allegan Co Oct 31 – both late. The usual great counts of **American Pipits** throughout the month at the Wastewater with highs of **130** Oct 1, **150** Oct 9 and est **200** Oct 11 and 23. Nine **Pine Siskins** at Ball Perkins Park Oct 13 and five Oct 17, five at Waterfront Park Reeds Lake Oct 15, several reports at residences. Three **Lapland Longspurs** at 118th Ave/23rd St fields in Allegan Co Oct 3, one at the Wastewater Oct 4 and 12, two at Muskegon SGA Lane's Landing Oct 31. Twenty-five **Snow Buntings** at the Wastewater Oct 25 – first report, present at several locations in Muskegon and Ottawa cos with a high count of **215** at the Wastewater Oct 27. **Sparrows:** Two **American Tree** at Ball Perkins Park in Grand Rapids Oct 9 – first report. A **HARRIS'S** (found by Craig Kingma) at Holland SP Lake Macatawa Campground Oct 25 (visit <https://ebird.org/checklist/S96702578> to view photos). A **Fox** at GVSU campus in Allendale Oct 8 – first report. A **LECONTE'S** (found by Jeff Slaughter) at a residence along Butternut Dr N of Van Buren St in Ottawa Co Oct 16 (visit

<https://ebird.org/checklist/S96242267> to view photos), one (found by Beth/Glen Miller) along Black Lake Trail at Hoffmaster SP near Lake Harbor Rd in Muskegon Co Oct 23 (visit <https://ebird.org/checklist/S96605149> to view Glen Miller's photos). A rare **NELSON'S** (found by James Markham Oct 7 and ID confirmed Oct 8) at Huff Park Oct 7-9 (visit <https://ebird.org/checklist/S95839320> to view photos). Huge influx of at least **60 Song** at Roselle Park in Kent Co Oct 6. Three **Eastern Meadowlarks** at M-222/24th St wetland in Allegan Co Oct 9, continued at the Wastewater through the month with a high count of 12 Oct 17, two at the Gerald R Ford Int'l Airport Kraft Ave access Oct 21 – all late. **Rusty Blackbirds** at various locations in all four counties; high count of est 60 at Muskegon SGA Lane's Landing Oct 27. Two **Brewer's Blackbirds** at AAA Turf Farm in Ottawa Co Oct 11 – known migratory location. **Late warblers:** A **Northern Waterthrush** at Stu Visser Trails in Ottawa Co Oct 9-10 and 27 (very late), one at a residence along Barry St W of 88th Ave in Ottawa Co Oct 13, one at Muskegon SGA Lane's Landing Oct 15-19. Two **Tennessee** at Muskegon SGA Lane's Landing Oct 13, one at Stu Visser Trails in Ottawa Co and at Rabbit River Preserve in Allegan Co Oct 13. A **Nashville** at Holland SP Lake Macatawa Campground Oct 29-30. A **Common Yellowthroat** at a residence on Leonard St on the Grand River near Spring Lake Oct 31. An **American Redstart** at Millennium Park Oct 21. A **Northern Parula** at Reeds Lake Oct 12. A **Cape May** at Holland SP Lake Macatawa Campground entrance Oct 26. A **Magnolia** at Ball Perkins Park in Grand Rapids Oct 14. A **Bay-breasted** at Muskegon Lake NP Oct 14. Three **Black-throated Green** at Crahen Valley Twp Park in Kent Co Oct 14. A **Wilson's** at Roselle Park Oct 11. A **Scarlet Tanager** at Rabbit River Preserve in Allegan Co Oct 10 – late. A very rare **WESTERN TANAGER** (found by Caleb Putnam/Julie Pedreros/Chace Scholten/Will Keller) near Lake Macatawa Campground entrance/various areas in W part of campground in Ottawa Co Oct 23-31 (visit <https://ebird.org/checklist/S96609972> for Caleb's photos and map with locations within the campground where the bird was first seen and <https://ebird.org/checklist/S96638848> to view Mark Parker's photos and play an audio recording). A **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** at Ball Perkins Park in Grand Rapids Oct 14-16 – late.

Note: Visit the Hall of Fame Bird Sightings page http://graud.org/rare_birds.html on the GRAC website and scroll down for more detailed information on this month's Harris's and Nelson's sparrows and Western Tanager sightings.