

**September 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 September 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.

A rather stagnant weather pattern of hot, humid weather and rounds of thunderstorms with heavy rain moved in Labor Day weekend and lasted through the following Wednesday. By the 6th, temps cooled into the 70s with lower dew points after the passage of a strong cold front. The remnants of tropical storm Gordon skirted to the south, and a warm, dry and pleasant period followed through mid-month due to the blocking effects of Hurricane Florence. A few showers, thunderstorms and humidity moved in the 18th through the 20th (our 19th day of 90 or better this summer during this time frame) followed by a drier period, much cooler temperatures and a little rainfall through the end of the month.

**AAA Turf Farm** in Ottawa Co was the shorebird hotspot early in the month. **American Golden-Plovers**, **Baird's**, **Stilt** and **Buff-breasted sandpipers** all put in appearances as well as a **Wilson's Phalarope** (see below for numbers and dates). Very good warbler movement in Kent Co on Sep 7. Lamoreaux Park and the Hodenpyl Woods area of Reeds Lake had eleven and 15 (total from several different observations) species reported respectively. Visit <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S48357516> for Lamoreaux Park and <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S48344681> for one of the many reports from Hodenpyl Woods. Very impressive **Blue Jay migration** of **1,580** counted in about an hour streaming south over the channel at Lake Macatawa Sep 27. **Eighteen waterfowl species** were observed by Caleb Putnam at the Muskegon Wastewater Sep 27. Visit <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S48784505> for his entire checklist.

**The best finds:** A **Ross's Goose** and at least one **Ross's x Snow Goose hybrid** were observed at the Wastewater by Caleb Putnam Sep 27. A **Harlequin Duck** was found at Holland SP Sep 30 by the Mannings and other observers. Visit <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S48852735> for photos. An **American Avocet** in non-breeding plumage was seen at Muskegon Wastewater by several observers Sep 6. Visit <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S48329007> to view Brad Heath's photos along with other species. Six were observed at the Kalamazoo River mouth by Rick Brigham Sep 23. A **Red Knot** was found at Grand Haven City Beach (immediately S of Grand Haven SP) by Tom Pavlik Sep 14. Visit <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S48500337> for Curtis Dykstra's photo at Grand Haven SP. Bird still at the park Sep 15. A female/immature type **Connecticut Warbler** was found by Curtis Dykstra at Hemlock Crossing Park in Ottawa Co Sep 11.

**Other notables:** a **Greater White-fronted Goose** at the Wastewater Sep 9 and three there Sep 13; three **Snow Geese** at the Wastewater Sep 21; **4,500 Northern Shoveler** at the Wastewater Sep 2 and at least **8,000** there Sep 27; at least **10,000 Ruddy Ducks** at the Wastewater Sep 27; two **Red-throated Loons** at Douglas Beach Park Sep 26; one **Eared Grebe** continued at the Wastewater Sep 15; an **American White Pelican** on the Grand River near Martinique Island in Ottawa Co Sep 27; a **Black-crowned Night-Heron** at Mill Point in Spring Lake and one also at Millennium Park in Kent Co Sep 8, one continued since Aug at VanBragt Park in Holland Sep 18; up to nine (several immatures) **Common Gallinules** continued since Aug at Covell Park in Muskegon Co Sep 11, two at Grand Haven SGA Bruce Bayou 132nd Ave access Sep 5 and one continued since summer at the 129th Ave access Sep 8, up to three at 11th St lake in Allegan Co Sep 6-8; two **Black-bellied Plover** at Holland SP Sep 7 and three there Sep 19; up to five **American Golden-Plover** continued since late Aug at AAA Turf Farm in Ottawa Co Sep 9 and one there Sep 23, up to five along 116th Ave E of 29th St in Allegan Co Sep 10, one at Grand Haven SP Sep 10, up to five at the Wastewater Sep 20-27; a **Ruddy Turnstone** continued since Aug at the Kalamazoo River mouth in Allegan Co Sep 18, up to two at Holland SP throughout the month, up to four at Grand Haven SP Sep 10-29, one at Saugatuck Harbor Natural Area Sep 18, two at Saugatuck Dunes SP Sep 24;

four **White-rumped Sandpipers** at Caledonia Sewage Ponds Sep 7, one at the Wastewater Sep 15; up to eight **Baird's Sandpipers** continued since late Aug at AAA Turf Farm Sep 7, up to six continued since Aug at the Wastewater Sep 25, up to three at Allegan SGA Todd Farm Sep 3-5, three at Hayes St and 74th Ave in Ottawa Co Sep 15, one at Holland SP Sep 30; one **Stilt Sandpiper** at the Wastewater off and on through Sep 27, three along 80th Ave between Taft and Cleveland Sts (DeVries Meats) in Ottawa Co Sep 1, up to two at AAA Turf Farm Sep 2-6, two at Allegan SGA Todd Farm Sep 3, one at Hayes St and 74th Ave in Ottawa Co Sep 14-15; up to four **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** at the Wastewater Sep 1-10, up to two continued since Aug 31 at AAA Turf Farm Sep 6; a **Wilson's Phalarope** continued since late Aug at AAA Turf Farm Sep 5; a **Herring x Lesser Black-backed Gull hybrid** at Holland SP Sep 30; a **Black Tern** at Holland SP Sep 6; **350 Common Terns** and **50 Forster's Terns** at Holland SP Sep 6 and **220 Common Terns** at Grand Haven SP Sep 13; a late **Black-billed Cuckoo** at Fallasburg Park Dr and Beckwith Dr in Kent Co Sep 27; an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** at a residence near Seidman Park in Kent Co Sep 3-6, one at Upper Macatawa Natural Area Sep 7, one at Hoffmaster SP in Muskegon Co Sep 14, one at Millennium Park Sep 18, one at Reeds Lake Sep 26; a **Golden-winged Warbler** at Hoffmaster SP Sep 14, one at a residence in W Ottawa Co Sep 16; a **Mourning Warbler** at Upper Macatawa Natural Area Sep 10, one at Caledonia Sewage Ponds Sep 24; a **Clay-colored Sparrow** at Upper Macatawa Natural Area Sep 19; two **Brewer's Blackbirds** at AAA Turf Farm Sep 4; **Purple Finch** reported at several locations in the four-county area with a high count of 14 female/immature type at Pine Creek Park in Ottawa Co Sept 7; a **Pine Siskin** at Pine Creek Park Sep 13, up to three at a residence in W Ottawa Co Sep 16-18.