

Actions of the Michigan Bird Records Committee for 2020

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This is the 31st report of the Michigan Bird Records Committee (MBRC), covering the committee's actions during the year 2020.

In 2020, the MBRC consisted of regular members Jeff Buecking (Genesee Co.), Lyle Hamilton (Livingston Co.), Darrell Lawson (Charlevoix Co.), Brad Murphy (Oakland Co.), Marc North (Eaton Co.), David Pavlik (Kent Co.) and Scott Terry (Livingston Co.). Alternate members included Adam M. Byrne (Clinton Co.) and Chace Scholten (Ottawa Co.). Pavlik chaired the committee and Byrne was the secretary.

In 2020, the MBRC made final decisions on 139 records with 76 (55%) of these records resulting in acceptance at some taxonomic level. The term "acceptance" means at least one individual reported was accepted, even if it was at a broader taxonomic level than the original submission. This would include a bird submitted as a Magnificent Frigatebird but ultimately accepted as Frigatebird sp. (*Fregata* sp.).

Several species had a change in their occurrence status at the end of 2020. Barrow's Goldeneye moved from Casual to Regular and remains on the review list through 2023. Black-necked Stilt moves from Casual to Regular and remains on the review list through 2023. Western Sandpiper completed its three-year probation with Regular status. Members felt that this species provided recurring identification challenges. Members agreed to retain Western Sandpiper on the review list. Black Skimmer was added to the state list with Accidental status. Anhinga moves from Casual to Accidental. White Ibis moves from Casual to Accidental. Fish Crow completed its three-year probation with Regular status. Members mentioned that this species is well established in Berrien County but reports outside of Berrien County are scarce. Members agreed to continue to review all Fish Crow records outside of Berrien County. Eurasian Tree Sparrow moved from Casual to Regular and remains on the review list through 2023. After much research and discussion, Northern Bobwhite moved from Regular to Extirpated, and if observers feel that they have seen a wild bird, members will review the documentation.

A request to reconsider a Sage Thrasher report from Manistee Co. in 2020 was submitted and accepted. This record was rejected on initial review, but new written details were provided and members felt those warranted another consideration.

For accepted records, the following information is provided: number of birds, dates, location (counties in italics), and contributors. The number of state records is included after the species name. All contributors that provided documentation are listed, the finder, if known, is listed and underlined, even if they did not provide documentation.

Accepted Records

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis* (12)

2019/2020

- one, 2 July 2019 – 29 May 2020, Farmington, *Oakland*. (Adam Byrne, Skye Haas, Lyle Hamilton, Mike Mencotti, Katie Mulcahy, Chace Scholten, Scott Terry)

2020

- six, 21 May, Lake Macatawa, *Ottawa* (Michael McBrien).
- one, 12-29 June, Indian Trail Sewage Lagoons, *St. Clair* (Adam M. Byrne, Thomas Heatley, Vikki Jones).
- six, 10 July, Hagar Twp., *Berrien* (Debbie Jesuthasan).

Cinnamon Teal *Spatula cyanoptera* (8)

2020

- one male, 24 May – 8 June Corey Marsh Ecological Research Center, *Clinton* (Jeff Buecking, Adam Byrne, Lyle Hamilton, Chace Scholten, Greg Smith, Kristy Taylor, Joe Vostrizansky).

King Eider *Somateria spectabilis* (66)

2020

- one, 8-22 May, Grand Have State Park, *Ottawa* (Jeff Buecking, Alex Cupp, Zachary Frieben, Hayden Moore, Chace Scholten, Niles Vroma).

King/Common Eider *Somateria spectabilis/mollissima* (29)

2020

- one, 3 July, Au Train, *Alger* (Scott Hickman, Mike Snable)

Barrow's Goldeneye *Bucephala islandica* (33)

2019/2020

- one male, 17 November 2019 – 12 February 2020, Gull Lake, *Kalamazoo* (Mike Cook).
- one male, 20 December 2019 – 10 May 2020, Manistee River State Game Area, *Manistee* (Brian Allen).
- one male, 28 December 2019 – 2 January 2020, Lakeshore Drive, *Allegan* (Tim Cornish, Chace Scholten).

Chuck-will's-widow *Anstrostrumus carolinensis* (25)

2020

- one, 4 May – 11 August 2020, Sharonville SWA, *Jackson*, returning for the 10th year (Mike Bowen, Jeff Buecking, Thomas Gass, Ross Green, Jack Kew, Amy Lyyski,).

King Rail *Rallus elegans* (170)

2020

- one, 20 May, Crow Island SGA, *Saginaw* (Anne Birkham).

Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus* (39)

2020

- three, 30 April – 2 May, Detroit Metropolitan Airport, *Wayne* (Selena Creed).
- one, 18-20 May, Muskegon Wastewater System, *Muskegon* (James Fyfe, Ethan Kibbey, Chace Scholten).
- one, 27 May, Nayanquing Point SWA, *Bay* (John Porath).
- five, two adults and three juveniles, early summer – 24 August, Erie Marsh Preserve, *Monroe* (Jeff Buecking, Phil Chu, Karen Markey, Aditya Varma).
- two, 27 June – 4 July, Pointe Mouillee SGA, *Monroe* (Jeff Buecking, Adam Byrne, Phil Chu, Lyle Hamilton).

Ruff *Calidris pugnax* (73)

2020

- one, 20 April, Port Huron Twp., *St. Clair* (Brian Doan).
- one, 29 April – 4 May, Caledonia Twp., *Kent* (Jeff Buecking, Caleb Putnam).
- one, 11-14 May, Fish Point SWA, *Tuscola* (Dan Duso, Brad Murphy).

Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii*

2020

- one, 30 April, Andrew's University, *Berrien* (Tom Goodwin).

Western Sandpiper *Calidris mauri* (233)

2020

- one, 30-31 August, Erie Marsh Preserve, *Monroe* (Geoff Malosh).

Long-tailed Jaeger *Stercorarius longicaudus* (36)

2013

- one juvenile, 29 September, Whitefish Point, *Chippewa* (Cory Gregory).

2020

- one, 29 October, Whitefish Point, *Chippewa* (Steve Backus).

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* (18)

2020

- one, 20-23 June, Nayanquing Point SWA, *Bay* (Jeff Buecking, Adam Byrne, Jim Dawe, Lyle Hamilton, Joe Sopsich, Scott Terry).

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea* (30)

2016

- one, 30 September, Reeds Lake, Grand Rapids, *Kent* (Clinton Boyd).

Black Skimmer *Rynchops niger* (1)

2020

- one, 24 May, Port Huron, *St Clair* was a remarkable first state record (Trevor Eldred).

Wood Stork *Mycteria americana* (4)

2020

- one, 28 July – 5 August, Shiawassee NWR, *Saginaw* (Adam M. Byrne, Ryan Dziedzic, Matt Hysell, Darrell Lawson, Geoff Malosh, Brad Murphy, Chace Scholten, Scott Terry)

***Fregata* species (9)**

2020

- one, 2 September, Oval Beach, *Allegan* (Michelle Vogus).

Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis* (12)

2020

- one, 30 May, Lake Macatawa, *Ottawa* (Terri Miller).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron *Nyctanassa violacea* (123)

2020

- one adult, 10 May, Muskegon SGA, *Muskegon* (Michael Boston).
- one adult, 18 June – 19 July, Ann Arbor, *Washtenaw* (Jeff Buecking, Lyle Hamilton, Bruce Moorman).

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* (30)

2020

- one, 7-12 June, Maple Grove Twp., *Barry* (Jeff Buecking, Adam M. Byrne, Beverly Dodd, Eldon Dodd, Geoff Malosh, Chace Scholten, Scott Terry, Jack Wykoff).

Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides forficatus* (16)

2020

- one, 2 August, Manistique, *Schoolcraft* (Kelly Matchinski, Zachary Matchinski).
- one, 14-22 August, Adrian, *Lenawee* (Jeff Buecking, Nathan McNett).
- one, 22 August, Marquette, *Marquette* (J.D. Phillips, Sydney Waterman).
- one, 6 September, Belding Sewage Lagoons, *Ionia* (Terry Clingersmith).
- one, 18 September, Pointe LaBarbe, *Mackinac* and Straits State Harbor, *Cheboygan* (Steve Baker, Christine Brackett, Calvin Brennan).

Barn Owl *Tyto alba* (143)

2020

- one, 9 March, Detroit Metropolitan Airport, *Wayne* (Selena Creed).
- one, 20 May, Harbor Springs, *Emmet* (Sue Kurtz).
- one, 6 October, Whitefish Point, *Chippewa* (Oliver Kew, Chris Neri, Kevin Walsh).

Fork-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus savana* (7)

2019

- one, 15-17 August, Erie Marsh Preserve, *Monroe* (Timothy Chio).

Vermilion Flycatcher *Pyrocephalus rubinus* (10)

2020

- one male, 19 May, Harrisville, *Alcona* (Christine Brackett, Thomas Heatley).

“Eastern” Bell’s Vireo *Vireo bellii bellii/medius* (49)

2020

- one, 26 May – 10 September, Benton Harbor, *Berrien* (Jeff Buecking, Adam M. Byrne, Matt Hysell, Darrell Lawson, Mike Mahler, Chace Scholten, Scott Terry,)

Fish Crow *Corvus ossifragus* (18)

2019

- two, 23 March – 8 November, Three Oaks, *Berrien* (Adam M. Byrne, Mary Jo Canaday, Philip C. Chu, Matt Hysell, Evelyn Kirkwood, Peter Koper, Amy Lyyski, Geoff Malosh, Jon Wuepper); an additional four individuals were not accepted.

2020

- two, 8 March – 6 November, Three Oaks, *Berrien* (Kenneth Bishop, Brynja Davis, David Ferris, Matt Hysell, Darrell Lawson); an additional one individual was not accepted.
- five, 8 June – 5 August, Sawyer, *Berrien* (Jeff Buecking, Adam Byrne, Amy Lyyski, John Porath); an additional one individual was not accepted.

Sage Thrasher *Oreoscoptes montanus* (8)

2020

- one, 24 August, Munising, *Alger* (Geoffrey Clarke).

Mountain Bluebird *Sialia currucoides* (12)

2019

- one, 25 November – 14 December, Anna River Mouth, Munising, *Alger* (Adam M. Byrne, Philip C. Chu, Skye Haas, Scott Hickman, Mark Hubinger,).

2020

- one male, 15 May, Marquette, *Marquette* (Steve Lindberg).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus* (39)

2019

- one, 5 May, Moran Twp., *Mackinac* (Dick Dietrich).

2020

- two, 16 May, White Pine, *Ontonagon* (Teri Giuliano).
- two, 26 May – 1 June, Whitefish Point, *Chippewa* (Adam M. Byrne, Brad Murphy, Scott Terry).

Black-throated Sparrow *Amphispiza bilineata* (5)

2019

- one, 29 September, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, *Leelanau* (Forest Jarvis).

Lark Bunting *Calamospiza melanocorys* (34)

2020

- one, 13 May, Arcadia, *Manistee* (Alan Devore).

“Gray-headed” Dark-eyed Junco *Junco hyemalis caniceps/dorsalis* (2)

2020

- one, 12 May, Pointe Mouillee SGA, *Monroe* (Curt Hofer).

Golden-crowned Sparrow *Zonotrichia atricapilla* (10)

2020

- one, 30 April – 1 May, Central Lake, *Antrim* (Jenilee Whisler).

Spotted Towhee *Pipilo maculatus* (18)

2019/2020

- one, 26 November 2019 – 1 May 2020, Bellevue, *Barry* (Adam M. Byrne, Philip C. Chu, Lyle Hamilton, Lois Robbins, Chace Scholten, Geoffrey Williamson,).

2020

- one, 27 March, Houghton, *Houghton* (Jared Wolfe).
- one, 3 June, West Side County Park, *Allegan* (Chace Scholten).

Hooded Oriole *Icterus cucullatus* (3)

2020

- one, 25-26 April, Ypsilanti, *Washtenaw* (Adam M. Byrne, Lyle Hamilton, Geoff Malosh, Ellen Richards, Chace Scholten,).
- one, 9 May, Hemlock, *Saginaw* (Jenni Steele).

Louisiana Waterthrush *Parkesia motacilla*

2020

- one, 17 June, Presque Isle Park, *Marquette* (Joanie Hubinger, Mark Hubinger).

“Yellow” Palm Warbler *Setophaga palmarum* (11)

2020

- one, 22 July, Atlanta, *Montmorency* (Phil Odum).

Western Tanager *Piranga ludoviciana* (49)

2019

- one, 3-4 May, Vestaburg, *Montcalm* .

2020

- one, 8 May, St. Joseph, *Berrien* (Tom Lenz).
- one, 8-11 May, Lake Linden, *Houghton* (Bruce Wolck).
- one, 22 July, Holland, *Ottawa* (Eric Slaughter).

Black-headed Grosbeak *Pheucticus melanocephalus* (4)

2020

- one, 26 January – 29 February, Fowlerville, *Livingston* (Jeff Buecking, Adam M. Byrne, Lyle Hamilton, Ben Kaake, Geoff Malosh, Marc North).

Blue Grosbeak *Passerina caerulea* (49)

2019

- six, 4 July – 24 August, South Rockwood, *Monroe* (Giff Beaton, Adam M. Byrne, Lyle Hamilton, Scott Terry, James Trombley, Mary Trombley).

2020

- three, 19 May – 10 September, Whiteford Twp. Community Park, *Monroe* (Bruce Arnold).
- two, 20 May – 1 August, Detroit Metropolitan Airport, *Wayne* (Selena Creed).
- two, 14 June – 1 August, Newport, *Monroe* (Adam M. Byrne, Vikki Jones, Rob Poniatowski.).
- two, 16 June – 18 July, Holland, *Ottawa* (Patricia Bazany, Adam M. Byrne, Philip C. Chu, Amy Lyyski, Carl Manning, Judi Manning, Chace Scholten).
- two, 6 July – 7 August, Willow Run Airport, *Wayne* (Robert Bochenek, Jeff Buecking, Adam M. Byrne, Lyle Hamilton, Manny Salas).
- three, 24 July – 31 August, Grass Lake, *Jackson* (Margaret Jewett); an additional one individual was not accepted.
- one, 26-29 July, Sharon Mills County Park, *Washtenaw* (Michael Bowen, John Latta, Jason Vaughn); an additional one individual was not accepted.

Not Accepted Records

2005

- Cave Swallow, three, 7 November, Lake Erie Metropark, *Wayne*.

2009

- Ross's Goose, seven, 2 November, Lake Linden, *Houghton* . All members agreed that the birds in the photo appear to be smaller white geese, but were concerned about the size and shape of the bill, curved delineation at the bill base, and the pronounced grin patch on some of the birds.

2017

- Mississippi Kite, one, 18-19 July, Clinton Twp., *Macomb*.

2019

- Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, one, 17 December, Neff Park, *Wayne* . Brant, 14 December, Muskegon Wastewater System, *Muskegon* .
- Brant (*Branta bernicla*), one, 14 December, Muskegon Wastewater System, *Muskegon*.
- Barrow's Goldeneye, 20, 16-20 December, Neff Park, *Wayne*..King Rail, one, 5 May, Crosswinds Marsh, *Wayne*.
- King Rail, one, 14 May, Pointe Mouillee SGA, *Monroe*.
- Glossy Ibis, one, mid-May-2 June, Essexville, *Bay*.
- Barn Owl, two, 6 September, Eagle River, *Keweenaw*.
- American Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides dorsalis*), one, 20 June, Peshekee Grade, *Marquette*.
- American Three-toed Woodpecker, two, 12 July, Isle Royal National Park, *Keweenaw*.
- Townsend's Warbler, one, 30 October, Peninsula Point, *Delta*.

2020

- Eurasian Wigeon (*Mareca penelope*), one, 16-17 July, Standish, *Arenac*.
- Eurasian Wigeon, one, 9 October, Shiawassee NWR, *Saginaw*. Members were concerned that without details about the face and bill pattern, a hybrid could not be ruled out.
- Barrow's Goldeneye, one, 17 February, Boardman River, *Grand Traverse*.
- Barrow's Goldeneye, one, 15 March, Bayfront Park, *Emmet*.
- Barrow's Goldeneye, one, 11 April, Wakeley Lake, *Crawford*.
- Common Ground-Dove (*Columbina passerine*), one, 11 April, Port Austin, *Huron*.
- King Rail, one, 10 May, Sarett Nature Center, *Berrien*.
- Black-necked Stilt, one, 14 May, Rumely, *Alger*.
- Pacific Golden-Plover (*Pluvialis fulva*), one, 21 June, Nayanquing Point SWA, *Bay*. All members agreed that the bird was intriguing, showing white down the flanks. However, the quality of photos was insufficient to determine primary length, the bird was never heard calling, and the underwing pattern was not seen. These diagnostic field marks that would have been helpful in assessing this record.
- Baird's Sandpiper, one, 18 May, Muskegon Wastewater System, *Muskegon*.
- Western Sandpiper, one, 16 August, Erie Marsh Preserve, *Monroe*.
- Western Sandpiper, one, 30 August, Pointe Mouillee SGA, *Monroe*.
- Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*), one, 18-19 September, Whitefish Point, *Chippewa*.
- Pomarine Jaeger, one, 10 October, Whitefish Point, *Chippewa*.
- Pomarine Jaeger, one, 8 November, Ashmun Bay boat launch, *Chippewa*.
- Long-tailed Jaeger, one, 24 May, Whitefish Point, *Chippewa*.
- Long-tailed Jaeger, one, 30 August, Whitefish Point, *Chippewa*.
- Long-tailed Jaeger, one, 2 September, Whitefish Point, *Chippewa*.
- Long-tailed Jaeger, one, 10 September, Whitefish Point, *Chippewa*.

- Long-tailed Jaeger, one, 4 October, Whitefish Point, *Chippewa*.
- Black-headed Gull, one, 18 April, Fennville, *Allegan*.
- Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*), one, 11 May, Cedar, *Leelanau*.
- Brown Pelican, one, 27 May, Ludington, *Mason*.
- Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*), two, 15-16 May, Muskegon Wastewater System, *Muskegon*.
- Little Blue Heron, one, 10 June, Kalkaska, *Kalkaska*.
- Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, one, 18 April, Robert H. Long Park, *Oakland*.
- Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*), one, 15-17 July, Clinton Twp., *Macomb*.
- Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*), one, 3 January, Willow Metropark, *Wayne*.
- "Krider's" Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis kriderii*), 18 April, Maple River SGA, *Gratiot*.
- "Krider's" Red-tailed Hawk, 24 April, Maple River SGA, *Gratiot*.
- "Krider's" Red-tailed Hawk, one, 3 May, Whitefish Point, *Chippewa*.
- American Three-toed Woodpecker, one, 15 April, Stonington Peninsula, *Delta*.
- Black-billed Magpie (*Pica hudsonia*), one, 24 September, White Lake Twp., *Oakland*.
- Fish Crow, one, 11 May – 4 July, Sarett Nature Center, *Berrien*.
- Fish Crow, two, 23 May – 20 June, Warren Dunes SP, *Berrien*.
- Fish Crow, three, 2 June, Three Oaks, *Berrien*.
- Fish Crow, one, 17 June, Grand Mere SP, *Berrien*.
- Fish Crow, two, 19 June, Love Creek County Park and Nature Center, *Berrien*.
- Carolina Chickadee (*Poecile carolinensis*), one, 4-11 May, Munith, *Jackson*.
- Sage Thrasher, 10-11 June, Onekama, *Manistee*.
- "Slate-colored" Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca* [*schistacea* Group]), one, 11 April, Grayling, *Kalkaska*.
- "Pink-sided" Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis mearnsi*), one, 30 March, Garfield Twp., *Grand Traverse*.
- Golden-crowned Sparrow, one, 29 May, Covington, *Baraga*.
- Hooded Oriole, one, 20 May, Sterling Heights, *Macomb*.
- "Yellow" Palm Warbler, one, 23 September, Noquemanon South Trails, *Marquette*.
- "Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Setophaga coronata auduboni*), one, 19 May, Stony Creek Metropark, *Macomb*.
- Blue Grosbeak, one female, 15 May, Saline, *Washtenaw*.
- Blue Grosbeak, two (male and female), 26 June, Shiawassee River SGA, *Saginaw*.
- Blue Grosbeak, one, 31 July, Pointe Mouillee SGA, *Monroe*.