

Actions of the Michigan Bird Records Committee for 2021

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This is the 32nd report of the Michigan Bird Records Committee (MBRC), covering the committee's actions during the year 2021.

In 2021, the MBRC consisted of regular members Adam M. Byrne (Clinton Co.), Louie Dombroski (Arizona), Skye Haas (Marquette Co.), Lyle Hamilton (Livingston Co.), Darrell Lawson (Charlevoix Co.), David Pavlik (Kent Co.), and Chace Scholten (Ottawa Co.). Alternate members included Geoff Malosh (Ohio) and Andrew Simon (Macomb Co.). Pavlik chaired the committee and Byrne was the secretary.

In 2021, the MBRC made final decisions on 126 records with 78 (62%) 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.).

Some status changes for 2020 were determined in early 2021. Arctic Tern moved from Casual to Regular and will remain on the review list through 2023. Sage Thrasher moved from Accidental to Casual. Cassin's Finch was added to the state list with Accidental status.

Several species had a change in their occurrence status at the end of 2021. Eurasian Wigeon remained with Regular status through the three-year probationary period and is no longer on the review list. Mexican Violetear moved from Casual to Accidental. Yellow-crowned Night Heron moved from Casual to Regular and will remain on the review list through 2024. Glossy Ibis moved from Casual to Regular and will remain on the review list through 2024. Roseate Spoonbill was added to the state list with Accidental status. Short-billed Gull moved from Casual to Accidental. Neotropic Cormorant moved from Accidental to Casual. Green-tailed Towhee moved from Casual to Accidental. Blue Grosbeak remained Regular after its three-year probationary period and is no longer on the review list.

This past summer, the American Ornithological Society split Mew Gull into two species – Short-billed Gull and Common Gull. Short-billed Gull is comprised of the North American subspecies *L. c. brachyrhynchus*), while Common Gull includes "Common Gull" (*L. c. canus*) and "Kamchatka Gull" (*L. c. kamtschatschensis*). Both forms of Common Gull have been reported in Eastern North America and should be considered serious possibilities to occur in Michigan. Michigan currently has nine accepted "Mew Gull" records, only one of which was identified and accepted as a Short-billed Gull. The remaining eight records were only accepted as generic Mew Gulls and warrant reconsideration at the subspecies level. The Committee agreed to reconsider the remaining eight accepted records as Short-billed Gull, with the idea that if any did not meet standards for that species, members could request reconsideration as Common Gull, if they felt that was more important. Otherwise records rejected as Short-billed Gull will still be considered accepted as Short-billed/Common Gull.

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* (16)

2020

- one, 1 September, Allegan SGA, *Allegan*. (Craig Antkoviak).

2021

- five, 6 June, Carleton, *Monroe* (Alex Dornberg).
- one, 13-30 June, Hampton Twp., *Bay* (Adam M. Byrne, Philip C. Chu, Louie Dombroski, Andrew Simon).
- four, 10-16 July, Holland, *Ottawa* (Chace Scholten).

Brant *Branta bernicla* (83)

2020

- two, 30-31 October, Palmer Park, *St. Clair* (Jeff Buecking, Matt Salisbury, Andrew Simon, Ethan Urban).

Cinnamon Teal *Spatula cyanoptera* (9)

2021

- one, 20-24 April, Grand Haven, *Ottawa* (Pat Bazany, Adam M. Byrne, David Herdegen, Jim Markham, Karl Sineath).

Eurasian Wigeon *Mareca penelope* (74)

2021

- one, 5 April, Ludington SP, *Mason* (Randy Dougherty).
- one, 10-25 April, Cadillac, *Wexford* (Adam M. Byrne, Joseph Lipar, Geoff Malosh, David Smitley).
- one, 26-30 April, Joseph M. Soehnel Nature Trail, *Bay* (Paul Revard).

- one, 3-9 May, Grand Haven, *Ottawa* (Cindy Dobrez, Chip Francke, Will Keller, Craig Kingma, Meg Sanders, Chace Scholten, Frank Schroyer, Tanya Smythe, Thomas Smythe, Emily Tornga).

King Eider *Somateria spectabilis* (69)

2020

- one, 15-26 December, Port Austin, *Huron* (Jeff Buecking, Brad Murphy, Chace Scholten).
- one, 23 December, Harrisville, *Alcona* (Thomas Heatley).

2021

- one, 19 February – 4 March, Tiscornia Park, *Berrien* (Tim Baerwald, Adam M. Byrne, Will Keller).

King/Common Eider *Somateria spectabilis/mollissima* (30)

2020

- one, 3 November, Whitefish Point, *Chippewa* (Chris Neri).

Barrow's Goldeneye *Bucephala islandica* (38)

2020/2021

- one, 6 December 2020 – 10 January 2021, Sherman Lake, *Kalamazoo* (Jeff Buecking, Adam M. Byrne, Philip C. Chu, Mike Cook, Skye Haas, Lyle Hamilton).

2021

- one, 8-20 February, Pigeon Lake, Port Sheldon, *Ottawa* (Ty Wagenmaker).
- one, 11-21 February, Manistee, *Manistee* (Linda Scribner).
- one, 20-27 February, Battle Creek, *Calhoun* (Adam M. Byrne).
- one, 1 March, Grand Haven, *Ottawa* (David Herdegen).

King Rail *Rallus elegans* (172)

2020

- one, 24 May – 4 July, Pointe Mouillee SGA, *Monroe* (Adam M. Byrne, Philip C. Chu, Thomas Gass, Kiehl Smith, Scott Terry); an additional individual was not accepted.
- one, 25 May, Erie SGA, *Monroe* (Paul Jacyk).

Purple Gallinule *Porphyrio martinicus* (15)

2021

- one, 5 September, Lake St. Clair Metropark, *Macomb* (John Brubaker, Denise Markstrom).

Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus* (42)

2021

- three, 8 April – 27 May, Erie Marsh Preserve, *Monroe* (Arnold Buehler, Adam M. Byrne, Geoff Malosh, Scott Terry); an additional three individuals were not accepted.
- one, 15-18 April, West Leroy, *Calhoun* (Adam M. Byrne, Gordon Green, Andrew Simon, David Smitley).
- four, 7 May – 7 July, Pointe Mouillee SGA, *Monroe* (Benjamin Althouse, Ken Althouse, Adam M. Byrne, Philip C. Chu, Justin Labadie, Scott Terry); an additional two individuals were not accepted.
- one, 11-12 June, Shiawassee NWR, *Saginaw* (Ryan Dziedzic).

Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii*

2021

- one, 10-11 April, Pointe Mouillee SGA, *Monroe* (Adam M. Byrne, Geoff Malosh, Scott Terry).
- one, 27 May, Atlantic Mine Sewage Ponds, *Houghton* (Skye Haas).
- one, 29 May, Ahmeek Sewage Ponds, *Keweenaw* (Ryne Rutherford).

Western Sandpiper *Calidris mauri* (235)

2020

- one, 12-16 September, Kinderhook Sewage Ponds, *Branch* (Jeff Buecking, Brendan Klick).

2021

- one, 28 April – 2 May, Erie Marsh Preserve, *Monroe* (Adam M. Byrne, Geoff Malosh, Scott Terry).

Dovekie *Alle alle* (4)

2020

- one found deceased, 3 November, Ocqueoc, *Presque Isle* (Chad Radka).

California Gull *Larus californicus* (37)

2021

- one, 29 October, Tiscornia Park, *Berrien* (Matt Hysell).

Glaucous-winged Gull *Larus glaucescens* (3)

2020

- one, 18 December, Sault Ste Marie, *Chippewa* (Stan Phippen).

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea* (35)

2020

- one, 16 September, Whitefish Point, *Chippewa* (Alison Vilag, Skye Haas, Oliver Kew).

Royal Tern *Thalasseus maximus* (2)

2021

- one, 24 May, Grand Haven, *Ottawa* (Adam M. Byrne, Lyle Hamilton, James Markham, Andrew Simon).

***Fregata* species (10)**

2020

- one, 24 September, Whitefish Point, *Chippewa* (Steve Backus).

Neotropic Cormorant *Nannopterum brasilianum* (7)

2020

- one, 14 September – 1 October, Whiting Overlook Park, *Midland* (Jeff Buecking, Adam M. Byrne, Valerie Trabucchi, Ethan Urban).

2021

- one, 28 April, Erie Marsh Preserve, *Monroe* (Adam M. Byrne, Scott Terry).
- one, 28 June – 19 September, Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, *Wayne* (Bo Irwin, Robert Irwin, Andrew Simon).

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea* (143)

2021

- one, 14-30 April, Muskegon SP, *Muskegon* (Rick Brigham, Adam M. Byrne, Geoff Malosh, Chace Scholten, David Smitley, Jim Zervos, Tracy Zervos).

Tricolored Heron *Egretta tricolor* (55)

2021

- one, 17-29 April, Nayanquing Point SRA, *Bay* (Joe Sopsich).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron *Nyctanassa violacea* (130)

2020

- one juvenile found injured, 7 August, Manistique, *Schoolcraft* (Paul Rochna, Trina Rochna).
- one, 7 September, Bath, *Clinton* (Tim Salisbury).
- one, 27 September – 8 October, Pittsfield Charter Twp., *Washtenaw* (Ethan Urban).

2021

- one, 31 May – 8 July, Tuttle Hill Road Pond and Waterworks Park, Ann Arbor, *Washtenaw* (Paul Budde, Adam M. Byrne, Lyle Hamilton, Bruce Moorman, Andrew Simon).
- one, 10-23 July, Pointe Mouillee SGA, *Monroe* (Adam M. Byrne, Skye Haas)
- one, 9-29 August, Erie Marsh Preserve, *Monroe* (Amber Piotter).
- one, 3 September, Shiawassee NWR, *Saginaw* (Ryan Dziedzic).

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* (38)

2021

- two, 28 April – 18 May, Erie Marsh Preserve, *Monroe* (Arnold Buehler, Geoff Malosh, Todd Palgut).

- 12, 22 May – 12 June, Quanicassee SWA, *Tuscola* (Matt Bueby, Adam M. Byrne, Dan Duso, Robert Lawshe, Andrew Simon, Jenn Sommer, Anita Spencer); an additional two individuals were not accepted.
- three, 23 May, Nayanquing Point SWA, *Bay* (Karyl Gabriel, Samir Gabriel, Edward Hicks, Alex Lamoreaux, Gabriel Lugo-Ortiz, Susan Matson, George Rementer, Lorena Siqueira).
- one, 27 May, Free Soils Twp., *Mason* (Suzie Knoll, Levi Wilson).
- one, 27 May, Farwell, *Clare* (Cindy Ward, Tim Ward).

Roseate Spoonbill *Platalea ajaja* (1)

2021

- one, 16-26 July, Saline, *Washtenaw* was a long awaited first state record (Jessica Butler, Adam M. Byrne, Philip C. Chu, Skye Haas, Lyle Hamilton, Matt Hysell, Darrell Lawson, Geoff Malosh, Brad Murphy, Chace Scholten, Andrew Simon).

Ash-throated Flycatcher *Myiarchus cinerascens* (9)

2020

- one, 7-8 November, Traverse City, *Grand Traverse* (Ed Kaminski, Janet Smigielski)

Say's Phoebe *Sayornis saya* (31)

2020

- one, 14 September, Pointe LaBarbe, *Mackinac* (Steve Baker, Calvin Brennan).
- one, 29 October, Arcadia Twp., *Manistee* (Brian Allen).

Vermilion Flycatcher *Pyrocephalus rubinus* (11)

2020

- one, 28 September, Allegan SGA, *Allegan* (Tim Cornish).

Black-billed Magpie *Pica hudsonia* (13)

2021

- one, 3 April, Whitefish Point, *Chippewa* (Richard Couse, Darrell Lawson).

Sage Thrasher *Oreoscoptes montanus* (10)

2020

- one, 13 November, Pittsfield Twp., *Washtenaw* (Bill VanderMolen).
- one, 25 November – 13 December, Copper Harbor, *Keweenaw* (Jeff Buecking, Phil Chu, Skye Haas, Lyle Hamilton, Geoff Malosh, Brad Murphy, J.D. Phillips, Miranda Rich, Chace Scholten).

Mountain Bluebird *Sialia currucoides* (13)

2020

- one, 18-25 October, Manistique, *Schoolcraft* (Skye Haas, Christopher Vogel).

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe* (12)

- one, 18 September, Vermontville, *Eaton* (Adrian Bass).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus* (40)

2020

- one, 22 November, Grand Haven, *Ottawa* (Dave Herdegen).

Cassin's Finch *Haemorhous cassinii* (1)

2020

- one, 23-28 November, Copper Harbor, *Keweenaw* was a cooperative first state record (Cherri Allen, Jeff Buecking, Adam M. Byrne, Philip C. Chu, Skye Haas, Brad Murphy, J.D. Phillips, Chace Scholten).

Golden-crowned Sparrow *Zonotrichia atricapilla* (11)

2021

- one, 29 April, Charlevoix, *Charlevoix* (Suzanne Muma).

Western Tanager *Piranga ludoviciana* (50)

2021

- one, 30 April, Lakeview, *Montcalm* (Alexander Sabol).

Blue Grosbeak *Passerina caerulea* (59)

2020

- one male, 24 July – 31 August, Grass Lake, *Jackson*; new documentation was submitted, prompting an accepted request to reconsider this record, eventually adding this individual to three males and one female that were previously accepted (Margaret Jewett, Alan Ryff).

2021

- one, 1 May, Colon, *St. Joseph* (Diane Denney).
- one, 19 May, Allegan SGA, *Allegan* (Dave Slager).
- two, 22 May – 20 June, Sturgis, *St. Joseph* (John Cassady).
- three, 15 May – 28 August, Berlin Twp., *Monroe* (Adam M. Byrne, Philip C. Chu, Skye Haas, Bob Scheidt, Mary Trombley).
- two, 31 May – 11 August, Willow Run Airport, *Wayne* (Paul Budde, Adam M. Byrne, Andrew Simon); an additional individual was not accepted.
- one, 1 June, Pinckney RA, *Washtenaw* (Juliet Berger, Susan Clinton, Christopher Dickens, Alanna Epstein, Benjamin Hack, Merrily Hart, Mike Kelly, Jim Law, Mark Myers, Tori Myers, Bill Nolting, Donna Parmalee, Roberto San Antonio, Mike Sefton, Matthew Spoor, Ray Stocking, Jason Vaun).
- one, 10 June, Point Mouillee SGA, *Monroe* (Allen Chartier).
- one, 12-29 June, Waterloo RA, *Jackson* (Michael Bowen).
- two, 28 July – 19 August, Sturgis, *St. Joseph* (Karen Brown).

Not Accepted Records

2006

- King Rail, one, 2 June, Brown Sanctuary, *Berrien*.

2016

- Blue Grosbeak, one, 14 May, Indian Springs Metropark, *Oakland*.

2019

- Western Tanager, one, 14 June, Larkin Charter Twp., *Midland*.

2020

- King/Common Eider, one, 18 October, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, *Alger*.
- King/Common Eider, one, 24 October, Whitefish Point, *Chippewa*.
- Barrow's Goldeneye, three, 5 December, Crooked Lake, *Kalamazoo*.
- Barrow's Goldeneye, one, 17 December, Otter Lake, *Lapeer*.
- Barrow's Goldeneye, one, 17 December, Higgins Lake, *Roscommon*.
- Barrow's Goldeneye, one, 19 December, Sault Ste. Marie, *Chippewa*.
- *Aechmophorus* grebe, one, 2 September, Black River, *Alpena*.
- King Rail, one, 11-21 August, Pointe Mouillee SGA, *Monroe*.
- California Gull, one, 5 May, Shiawassee NWR, *Saginaw*.
- California Gull, one, 19 December, Harsen's Island, *St. Clair*.
- Arctic Tern, two, 14 November, Lake Glazon Preserve, Copper Harbor, *Keweenaw*.
- *Fregata* species, one female, 2 September, Bois Blanc Island, *Mackinac*.
- Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*), one, 1 July, Grass Island, *Alpena*.
- Little Blue Heron, two, 21 June, Painter Lake, *Berrien*.
- Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*), one, 13 September, Whiteford Center, *Monroe*.
- Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*), one, 19 September, Greendale Twp., *Midland*.
- Sage Thrasher, one, 10-11 June, Manistee Twp., *Manistee*.

2020/2021

- Smew, one, either female or first-cycle male, 22 December 2020 – 2 February 2021, Lake Allegan, *Allegan* and Sherman Lake, *Kalamazoo*. While the identification of this bird was never in doubt, members were concerned about origin due to the presence of a band on the left leg, indicating that this bird likely originated from captivity.
- Glossy Ibis, one, 13 October – 12 January, Shiawassee NWR, *Saginaw*.

2021

- Black-chinned Hummingbird, *Archilochus alexandri*, one, 18 July, Walker, *Kent*.
- Baird's Sandpiper, 11, 26 May, Midland, *Midland*.
- Baird's Sandpiper, two, 29 May – 4 June, Muskegon Wastewater System, *Muskegon*.
- Western Sandpiper, one, 4-8 May, Erie Marsh Preserve, *Monroe*.
- Western Sandpiper, two, 20 August, Muskegon Wastewater System, *Muskegon*.
- Western Sandpiper, one, 21 August, Shiawassee NWR, *Saginaw*.
- Arctic Tern, one, 2 September, Bay City SP, *Bay*.
- Neotropic Cormorant, one, 21 August, Morrow Lake, *Kalamazoo*.
- Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, one, 5 June, Ionia SRA, *Ionia*.
- Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, one, 19 June, Hampton Twp., *Bay*.

- Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, two, 29 September, Lake Erie Metropark, *Wayne*.
- Glossy Ibis, two, 21 May, Muskegon SGA, *Muskegon*.
- Glossy Ibis, one, 4 October, Hadley, *Lapeer*.
- “Harlan’s” Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis harlani*), one, 8 April, Mackinaw City, *Emmet*.
- Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*), one, 18 April, Allegan SGA, *Allegan*.
- Ferruginous Hawk, one, 7 September, Leslie Science and Nature Center, *Washtenaw*.
- Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*), one, 18 October, Kensington Metropark, *Oakland*.
- “Pink-sided” Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis mearnsi*), one, 4 February, Albion, *Jackson*.
- MacGillivray’s Warbler (*Geothlypis tolmiei*), one, 21 May, Bloomingdale, *Van Buren*.
- Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*), one, 27 July, Vassar, *Tuscola*.
- Black-headed Grosbeak, one, 20 August, Kalamazoo, *Kalamazoo*.
- Blue Grosbeak, one, 29 May, Ontonagon, *Ontonagon*.
- Blue Grosbeak, two, 29 May, Ottawa Ranger Station, *Ontonagon*.
- Blue Grosbeak, two, 1 June, Fumee Lake Natural Area, *Dickinson*.
- Blue Grosbeak, one, 1 July, Detroit Metro Airport, *Wayne*.
- Blue Grosbeak, four, 6 September, Fairport, *Delta*.