

Alger County List - January 1, 2026

Compiled by Scott Hickman

There are 349 species that have been reported from Alger county on this list; 334 are acceptable records by Michigan Bird Records Committee (MBRC) standards as explained below.

An "X" indicates a record that has been counted for the county. It has either been accepted by the MBRC, or if less rare, by an eBird reviewer or Michigan Birds and Natural History seasonal reviewer. For "MBRC review list" species, "P" signifies that MBRC action is pending, "R" denotes that the record was rejected by the MBRC, and "N" indicates no action taken by the MBRC or a rare record that was never documented, and therefore was not reviewed by the MBRC, an eBird reviewer, or a seasonal reviewer for Michigan Birds and Natural History. A "+" behind a date indicates that at least one additional sighting of a rare species has been subsequently reported. S# is used as an abbreviation for specimen number.

"A" = accidental in Michigan(according to MBRC guidelines).

"C" = casual in Michigan(according to MBRC guidelines).

More detailed descriptions of MBRC definitions of accidental and casual can be seen at: <http://mibirdrecords.com/>

Breeding statuses were primarily derived from "The Atlas of Breeding Birds of Michigan" (1991) and/or the results of MBBA II.

Families are not listed, but are indicated by a blank line separating the species listed within an order so as to follow the format used by others. The sequence of birds follows that of the American Ornithological Society's 64th Supplement(2023)to its checklist of North American Birds. English names have been updated as per the 66th Supplement (2024).

ANSERIFORMES

__X	Black-bellied Whistling Duck [A]	29 May 2015, Sundell
__R	Bar-headed Goose	19 JUN 1992, Munising, probable escape
__X	Snow Goose	
__X	Ross's Goose	9 SEP 2022, AuTrain Beach
__X	Greater White-fronted Goose	
__X	Brant [C]	8 JUN 1996+, Munising
__X	Cackling Goose	not documented
__X	Canada Goose	confirmed breeding
__X	Mute Swan	1980s+
__X	Trumpeter Swan	confirmed breeding
__X	Tundra Swan	
__X	Wood Duck	confirmed breeding
__	Garganey [A]	
__X	Blue-winged Teal	confirmed breeding
__	Cinnamon Teal [C]	
__X	Northern Shoveler	
__X	Gadwall	
__	Eurasian Wigeon	

☒	American Wigeon	confirmed breeding
☒	Mallard	confirmed breeding
☒	American Black Duck	confirmed breeding
☒	Northern Pintail	
☒	Green-winged Teal	
☒	Canvasback	
☒	Redhead	
☒	Ring-necked Duck	confirmed breeding
☒	Tufted Duck [A]	
☒	Greater Scaup	
☒	Lesser Scaup	
☒	King Eider [C]	11 DEC 2010, Munising
☒	Common Eider [A]	30 JUN 2007, Grand Marais
☒	Harlequin Duck	
☒	Surf Scoter	
☒	White-winged Scoter	
☒	Black Scoter	
☒	Long-tailed Duck	
☒	Bufflehead	
☒	Common Goldeneye	possible breeding
☐	Barrow's Goldeneye [C]	
☒	Hooded Merganser	confirmed breeding
☒	Common Merganser	confirmed breeding
☒	Red-breasted Merganser	confirmed breeding
☒	Ruddy Duck	

GALLIFORMES

☐	Northern Bobwhite	6 MAY 2005+, MSU Farm, Chatham, probable escape
☒	Ring-necked Pheasant	Fall 2012+, Trenary
☒	Ruffed Grouse	confirmed breeding
☒	Spruce Grouse	confirmed breeding
☒	Sharp-tailed Grouse	confirmed breeding
☒	Greater Prairie-Chicken	extirpated, Wood 1951:138
☒	Wild Turkey	

PHOENICOPTERIFORMES

☐	Greater Flamingo	3-5 AUG 2005, Au Train Lake, Escape from Sedgwick County Zoo in Wichita, KS (band 347)
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PODICIPEDIFORMES

☒	Pied-billed Grebe	confirmed breeding
☒	Horned Grebe	
☒	Red-necked Grebe	
☒	Eared Grebe	14 MAY 2012, Chatham Sewage Lagoons
☒	Western Grebe [C]	18-23 OCT 2003+, Munising Bay

COLUMBIFORMES

☒	Rock Pigeon	confirmed breeding
☐	Band-tailed Pigeon [A]	
☒	Eurasian Collared-Dove	28 AUG-6 SEP 2005, Grand Marais
☐	Passenger Pigeon	extinct
☐	Inca Dove [A]	
☐	Common Ground Dove [C]	
☒	White-winged Dove	12-16 JUN 2005, Laughing Whitefish Point
☒	Mourning Dove	confirmed breeding

CUCULIFORMES

☒ Black-billed Cuckoo breeding
☒ Yellow-billed Cuckoo breeding
☐ Groove-billed Ani [A]

CAPRIMULGIFORMES

☐ Common Nighthawk likely breeding
☐ Chuck-will's-widow
☒ Eastern Whip-poor-will likely breeding

APODIFORMES

☐ White-collared Swift [A]
☒ Chimney Swift confirmed breeding
☐ White-throated Swift [A]
☒ Mexican Violetear [C] 5-6 Jul 2008 +, Laughing Whitefish Point
☒ Ruby-throated Hummingbird confirmed breeding
☒ Anna's Hummingbird [A] mid Oct - Nov 2010, Grand Marais
☐ Rufous Hummingbird
☒ Broad-billed H-bird [A] 15 JUN 2022, Laughing Whitefish Point
☒ Berylline Hummingbird [A] 19 SEP 2014, Grand Marais

GRUIFORMES

☐ King Rail [C]
☒ Virginia Rail confirmed breeding
☒ Sora possible breeding
☒ Common Gallinule 13 MAY 2007, Sand Point Boardwalk
☒ American Coot
☒ Purple Gallinule [C] 10 MAY 1964, Grand Marais, UMMZ S# 208197
☒ Yellow Rail JUN 1941+, E of Shingleton, Wood 1951:155
☐ Black Rail [A]
☐ Sandhill Crane confirmed breeding
☒ Whooping Crane 20 APR 2009, Traunik, part of WI
 Reintroduction Program

CHARADRIIFORMES

☒ Black-necked Stilt [C] Date uncertain+, Sand Point, Munising
☒ American Avocet
☒ Black-bellied Plover
☒ American Golden-Plover
☒ Killdeer confirmed breeding
☒ Semipalmated Plover
☒ Piping Plover confirmed breeding in Grand Marais
☒ Wilson Plover [A] 9 MAY 2018
☐ Snowy Plover [A]
☒ Upland Sandpiper confirmed breeding
☐ Eskimo Curlew probably extinct
☒ Whimbrel
☒ Long-billed Curlew [A] 4 MAY 1981, DNR Refuge, Limestone
☒ Hudsonian Godwit
☒ Marbled Godwit
☒ Ruddy Turnstone
☒ Red Knot
☐ Ruff [C]
☐ Sharp-tailed Sandpiper [A]

__X	Stilt Sandpiper	
__	Curlew Sandpiper [A]	
__X	Sanderling	
__X	Dunlin	
__X	Purple Sandpiper	15 DEC 2016+, Munising
__X	Baird's Sandpiper	
__X	Least Sandpiper	
__X	White-rumped Sandpiper	
__X	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	
__X	Pectoral Sandpiper	
__X	Semipalmated Sandpiper	
__P	Western Sandpiper [C]	
__X	Short-billed Dowitcher	
__X	Long-billed Dowitcher	29 JUN 2023, AuTrain Beach
__X	American Woodcock	confirmed breeding
__X	Wilson's Snipe	likely breeding
__X	Spotted Sandpiper	confirmed breeding
__X	Solitary Sandpiper	
__X	Lesser Yellowlegs	
__X	Willet	
__X	Greater Yellowlegs	
__	Spotted Redshank [A]	
__X	Wilson's Phalarope	
__X	Red-necked Phalarope	23 MAY 2007, Shingleton Sewage Lagoons
__X	Red Phalarope [C]	13 OCT 2007, Munising Bay
__R	Pomarine Jaeger [C]	16 AUG 1986
__X	Parasitic Jaeger	
__	Long-tailed Jaeger [C]	
__	Dovekie [A]	
__	Thick-billed Murre [A]	
__	Ancient Murrelet [C]	
__X	Black-legged Kittiwake	
__	Ross's Gull [A]	
__	Ivory Gull [A]	
__X	Sabine's Gull.	9 DEC 2007
__X	Bonaparte's Gull	
__	Black-headed Gull [C]	
__X	Little Gull	1 OCT 2014, AuTrain
__X	Laughing Gull	8 APR 1925+, NMU Specimen from Grand Island
__X	Franklin's Gull	
__	Heermann's Gull [A]	
__	Mew Gull [C]	
__X	Ring-billed Gull	possible breeding
__X	California Gull [C]	17 OCT 1987, JPW66:35,173
__X	American Herring Gull	confirmed breeding
__X	Iceland Gull	
__X	Lesser Black-backed Gull	
__	Slaty-backed Gull [C]	
__	Glaucous-winged Gull [A]	
__X	Glaucous Gull	
__X	Great Black-backed Gull	
__	Least Tern [A]	
__	Gull-billed Tern [A]	
__X	Caspian Tern	

☒	Black Tern	5 SEP 2014, AuTrain
☐	Roseate Tern [A]	
☒	Common Tern	
☒	Arctic Tern [C]	19 SEP 2014+
☒	Forster's Tern	
☐	Sandwich Tern [A]	

GAVIIFORMES

☒	Red-throated Loon	
☒	Pacific Loon	18 OCT 2004, Sand Point
☒	Common Loon	confirmed breeding
☒	Yellow-billed Loon [A]	8 JAN 2012, Munising Bay

PROCELLARIIFORMES

☐	Greater Shearwater [A]
☐	Manx Shearwater [A]

CICONIIFORMES

☐	Wood Stork [A]
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SULIFORMES

☐	Magnificent Frigatebird [C]	
☐	Lesser Frigatebird [A]	
☒	Frigata sp.	6 SEP 2007, Au Train Lake
☐	Northern Gannet [A]	
☐	Neotropic Cormorant [A]	
☒	Double-crested Cormorant	possible breeding on William's Island
☐	Anhinga [A]	

PELECANIFORMES

☒	American White Pelican	
☒	Brown Pelican [A]	26 JUL 1991, Munising, JPW 69
☒	American Bittern	confirmed breeding
☒	Least Bittern	22 JUN 2019, AuTrain River, AuTrain
☒	Great Blue Heron	confirmed breeding
☒	Great Egret	
☒	Snowy Egret	8 MAY 2006
☐	Little Blue Heron [C]	
☐	Tricolored Heron [C]	
☐	Reddish Egret [A]	
☒	Western Cattle-Egret	22-24 APR 1973, Wetmore, JPW 51:102
☒	Green Heron	
☒	Black-crowned Night Heron	SUM 2005, Grand Island and 9 MAY 2018
☒	Y-crowned Night Heron [C]	
☐	White Ibis [A]	
☐	Glossy Ibis [C]	
☒	White-faced Ibis	15 OCT 2018

CATHARTIFORMES

☒	Black Vulture	9 NOV 2020
☒	Turkey Vulture	possible breeding

ACCIPITRIFORMES

☒	Osprey	confirmed breeding
☒	P Swallow-tailed Kite [C]	

☒	Golden Eagle	
☒	Northern Harrier	possible breeding
☒	Sharp-shinned Hawk	likely breeding
☒	Cooper's Hawk	likely breeding
☒	American Goshawk	confirmed breeding
☒	Bald Eagle	confirmed breeding
☒	Mississippi Kite	28 MAY 2014, "Tyoga" area N of Deerton
☒	Red-shouldered Hawk	possible breeding
☒	Broad-winged Hawk	confirmed breeding
☐	Short-tailed Hawk [A]	
☐	Swainson's Hawk	
☒	Red-tailed hawk	confirmed breeding
☒	Rough-legged Hawk	
☐	Ferruginous Hawk [C]	

STRIGIFORMES

☐	American Barn Owl [C]	
☐	Eastern Screech-Owl	
☒	Great Horned Owl	possible breeding
☒	Snowy Owl	
☒	Northern Hawk-Owl	1 DEC 2005, Shelter Bay
☐	Burrowing Owl [A]	
☒	Barred Owl	confirmed breeding
☒	Great Gray Owl	
☒	Long-eared Owl	possible breeding
☒	Short-eared Owl	
☐	Boreal Owl	
☒	Northern Saw-whet Owl	possible breeding

CORACIIFORMES

☒	Belted Kingfisher	confirmed breeding
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PICIFORMES

☐	Lewis's Woodpecker [A]	
☒	Red-headed Woodpecker	possible breeding
☒	Red-bellied Woodpecker	
☒	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	confirmed breeding
☒	Am Three-toed Woodp. [C]	3 FEB 2002+, MBRC #02-4010-01
☒	Black-backed Woodpecker	likely breeding
☒	Downy Woodpecker	confirmed breeding
☒	Hairy Woodpecker	confirmed breeding
☒	Northern Flicker	confirmed breeding
☒	Pileated Woodpecker	confirmed breeding

FALCONIFORMES

☒	Crested Caracara [A]	Late June - 12 NOV 2016
☒	American Kestrel	confirmed breeding
☒	Merlin	confirmed breeding
☒	Gyr Falcon	4 MAY 2016, Chatham
☒	Peregrine Falcon	possible breeding on Grand Island
☐	Prairie Falcon [A]	

PASSERIFORMES

☐	Ash-throated Flycatcher [A]	
☒	Great Crested Flycatcher	confirmed breeding
☒	Tropical Kingbird [A]	28 OCT-2 NOV 2005, Au Train

___	Couch's Kingbird [A]	
___X	Western Kingbird	28 MAY 1963+, Shingleton, JPW 42:213, MSU S# 5576
___X	Eastern Kingbird	confirmed breeding
___	Gray Kingbird [A]	
___X	Scissor-tail Flycatcher	27-31 MAY 2005+, Grand Marais
___X	Fork-tail Flycatcher [C]	6 OCT 83, JPW 62:30, UMMZ Specimen # 206495
___X	Olive-sided Flycatcher	likely breeding
___X	Eastern Wood-Pewee	confirmed breeding
___X	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	likely breeding
___	Acadian Flycatcher	
___X	Alder Flycatcher	likely breeding
___X	Willow Flycatcher	26 JUN 2022
___X	Least Flycatcher	confirmed breeding
___	Hammond's Flycatcher [A]	
___X	Eastern Phoebe	confirmed breeding
___	Say's Phoebe [C]	
___X	Vermilion Flycatcher [A]	
___	White-eyed Vireo	
___	Bell's Vireo [A]	
___	Black-capped Vireo [A]	
___X	Yellow-throated Vireo	
___	Plumbeous Vireo [A]	
___X	Blue-headed Vireo	likely breeding
___X	Philadelphia Vireo	possible breeding
___X	Eastern Warbling-Vireo	likely breeding
___X	Red-eyed Vireo	confirmed breeding
___X	Loggerhead Shrike	24 MAY 2010+, Shelter Bay
___X	Northern Shrike	
___X	Canada Jay	possible breeding
___X	Blue Jay	confirmed breeding
___	Clark's Nutcracker [A]	
___X	Black-billed Magpie [C]	16 APR 2013, Laughing Whitefish Pt.
___X	American Crow	confirmed breeding
___	Fish Crow [C]	
___X	Common Raven	confirmed breeding
___	Carolina Chickadee [A]	
___X	Black-capped Chickadee	confirmed breeding
___X	Boreal Chickadee	confirmed breeding
___X	Tufted Titmouse	30 MAY 2011; Huber Creek, N of Kiva
___X	Horned Lark	
___X	Bank Swallow	confirmed breeding
___X	Tree Swallow	confirmed breeding
___X	Violet-green Swallow [A]	29 APR 2008, Trenary, UMMZ S#241766
___X	N Rough-winged Swallow	confirmed breeding
___X	Purple Martin	confirmed breeding (now Accidental in Alger)
___X	Barn Swallow	confirmed breeding
___X	Cliff Swallow	confirmed breeding
___	Cave Swallow [C]	
___X	Golden-crowned Kinglet	confirmed breeding
___X	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	possible breeding

__X	Bohemian Waxwing	
__X	Cedar Waxwing	confirmed breeding
__X	Red-breasted Nuthatch	confirmed breeding
__X	White-breasted Nuthatch	confirmed breeding
__X	Brown Creeper	confirmed breeding
__X	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	
__X	Rock Wren [A]	15 OCT 2006, Sand Point
__X	Carolina Wren	18 OCT 2012, Laughing Whitefish Point
__X	Northern House Wren	confirmed breeding
__X	Winter Wren	confirmed breeding
__X	Sedge Wren	possible breeding
__X	Marsh Wren	possible breeding
__	Bewick's Wren [A]	
__X	Gray Catbird	likely breeding
__X	Brown Thrasher	confirmed breeding
__X	Sage Thrasher [A]	24 AUG 2020
__X	Northern Mockingbird	possible breeding
__X	European Starling	confirmed breeding
__X	Eastern Bluebird	confirmed breeding
__X	Mountain Bluebird [C]	25 NOV 2019, Anna River Mouth, Munising
__X	Townsend's Solitaire	12 NOV 2004+, Sand Point Boardwalk
__X	Veery	confirmed breeding
__X	Gray-cheeked Thrush	
__X	Swainson's Thrush	confirmed breeding
__X	Hermit Thrush	likely breeding
__X	Wood Thrush	likely breeding
__X	American Robin	confirmed breeding
__X	Varied Thrush	19 DEC-28 FEB 1994+, Grand Marais
__X	Northern Wheatear [A]	6 JUN 2008, Grand Marais
__X	House Sparrow	confirmed breeding
__X	Eurasian Tree Sparrow [C]	13 May 2021, Anna River Mouth, Munising
__	White Wagtail [A]	
__X	American Pipit	
__N	Sprague's Pipit [A]	15 NOV 1975, Am. Birds 30:75, no action by MBRC
__R	Common Chaffinch	2009, Laughing Whitefish Point, escapee?
__	Brambling [A]	
__X	Evening Grosbeak	confirmed breeding
__X	Pine Grosbeak	
__	Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch [A]	
__X	House Finch	
__X	Purple Finch	confirmed breeding
__X	Redpoll	
__X	Red Crossbill	possible breeding
__X	White-winged Crossbill	possible breeding
__P	European Goldfinch	17 Dec 2023

☒	Pine Siskin	likely breeding
☒	American Goldfinch	confirmed breeding
☒	Lapland Longspur	
☒	Chestnut-col. Longspur [A]	29 OCT 2009 +, Au Sable Dunes
☒	Smith's Longspur [C]	12 SEP 2008, Laughing Whitefish Point
☒	McCown's Longspur [A]	
☒	Snow Bunting	
☒	Cassin's Sparrow [A]	
☒	Grasshopper Sparrow	
☒	Black-throated Sparrow [A]	
☒	Lark Sparrow	9 MAY 1995+, E of Munising, MBNH 2:222
☒	Lark Bunting [C]	20 May 2016, Sand Lake
☒	Chipping Sparrow	confirmed breeding
☒	Clay-colored Sparrow	likely breeding
☒	Field Sparrow	possible breeding
☒	Fox Sparrow	
☒	American Tree Sparrow	
☒	Brewer's Sparrow [A]	
☒	Dark-eyed Junco	confirmed breeding
☒	White-crowned Sparrow	
☒	Golden-crowned Sparrow [C]	
☒	Harris's Sparrow	
☒	White-throated Sparrow	confirmed breeding
☒	Sagebrush Sparrow [A]	
☒	Vesper Sparrow	confirmed breeding
☒	LeConte's Sparrow.	
☒	Nelson's Sparrow	26 Sep 2018, Chatham
☒	Henslow's Sparrow	
☒	Savannah Sparrow	confirmed breeding
☒	Song Sparrow	confirmed breeding
☒	Lincoln's Sparrow	confirmed breeding
☒	Swamp Sparrow	confirmed breeding
☒	Green-tailed Towhee [C]	
☒	Spotted Towhee [C]	27 SEP 2007, Laughing Whitefish Point
☒	Eastern Towhee	likely breeding
☒	Yellow-breasted Chat	11 MAY 2012, Laughing Whitefish Point
☒	Yellow-headed Blackbird	
☒	Bobolink	confirmed breeding
☒	Eastern Meadowlark	confirmed breeding
☒	Western Meadowlark	likely breeding
☒	Orchard Oriole	14 May 2014
☒	Hooded Oriole [A]	
☒	Bullock's Oriole [A]	
☒	Baltimore Oriole	confirmed breeding
☒	Red-winged Blackbird	confirmed breeding
☒	Brown-headed Cowbird	confirmed breeding
☒	Rusty Blackbird	
☒	Brewer's Blackbird	confirmed breeding
☒	Common Grackle	confirmed breeding
☒	Boat-/Grt-tail Grackle [A]	
☒	Ovenbird	confirmed breeding
☒	Worm-eating Warbler	

___	Louisiana Waterthrush	
___X	Northern Waterthrush	likely breeding
___X	Golden-winged Warbler	possible breeding
___X	Blue-winged Warbler	
___X	Black-and-White Warbler	confirmed breeding
___N	Prothonotary Warbler	May 2013, Sand Lake
___	Swainson's Warbler [A]	
___X	Tennessee Warbler	possible breeding
___X	Orange-crowned Warbler	
___	Lucy's Warbler [A]	
___X	Nashville Warbler	confirmed breeding
___X	Virginia's Warbler [A]	9 MAY 2018, Laughing Whitefish Point
___X	Connecticut Warbler	likely breeding
___X	Mourning Warbler	confirmed breeding
___X	Kentucky Warbler	25 May 2017, Sand Point
___X	Common Yellowthroat	confirmed breeding
___X	Hooded Warbler	5 JUN 1992+, Grand Island, Birds of MI:282
___X	American Redstart	confirmed breeding
___X	Kirtland's Warbler	2 JUN 2008 +, S of Munising
___X	Cape May Warbler	confirmed breeding
___X	Cerulean Warbler	possible breeding
___X	Northern Parula	confirmed breeding
___X	Magnolia Warbler	confirmed breeding
___X	Bay-breasted Warbler	likely breeding
___X	Blackburnian Warbler	confirmed breeding
___X	Yellow Warbler	confirmed breeding
___X	Chestnut-sided Warbler	confirmed breeding
___X	Blackpoll Warbler	
___X	Black-throat Blue Warbler	confirmed breeding
___X	Palm Warbler	
___X	Pine Warbler	confirmed breeding
___X	Yellow-rumped Warbler	confirmed breeding
___	Yellow-throated Warbler	
___X	Prairie Warbler	Unreported Date+, Payne 1983:49
___	Blk-thrted Gray Warbler [C]	
___	Townsend's Warbler (A)	
___X	Black-throat Green Warbler	confirmed breeding
___X	Canada Warbler	confirmed breeding
___X	Wilson's Warbler	
___	Painted Redstart [A]	
___	Hepatic Tanager [A]	
___X	Summer Tanager	29 NOV 2006, Grand Marais
___X	Scarlet Tanager	likely breeding
___X	Western Tanager [C]	6-9 JAN 2007, Munising
___X	Northern Cardinal	likely breeding
___X	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	confirmed breeding
___	Black-headed Grosbeak [A]	
___	Blue Grosbeak	
___	Lazuli Bunting [A]	
___X	Indigo Bunting	confirmed breeding
___X	Painted Bunting	23 May 2021, Grand Marais
___X	Dickcissel	17 JUN 2006+, DNR Refuge, Limestone

Additional Sightings Not Counted in Totals Listed Above

Notable Hybrids Observed: Greater White-fronted Goose x Snow Goose 17 MAY 2004, Chatham; Snow Goose x Ross's Goose 4 OCT 2008, Grand Marais; Glaucous Gull x Herring Gull Early 2000s, Munising; Eastern Kingbird x Scissor-tailed Flycatcher 10 MAY 2008, Grand Marais; Yellow-rumped Warbler x Yellow Throated Warber 17 MAY 2005, Au Train (Michigan Birds and Natural History 24:35-39)

Notable Subspecies Observed: "Oregon Junco" (*Junco hyemalis oreganus*) 5-12 APR 2007, Laughing Whitefish Point, "Hoary Redpoll"