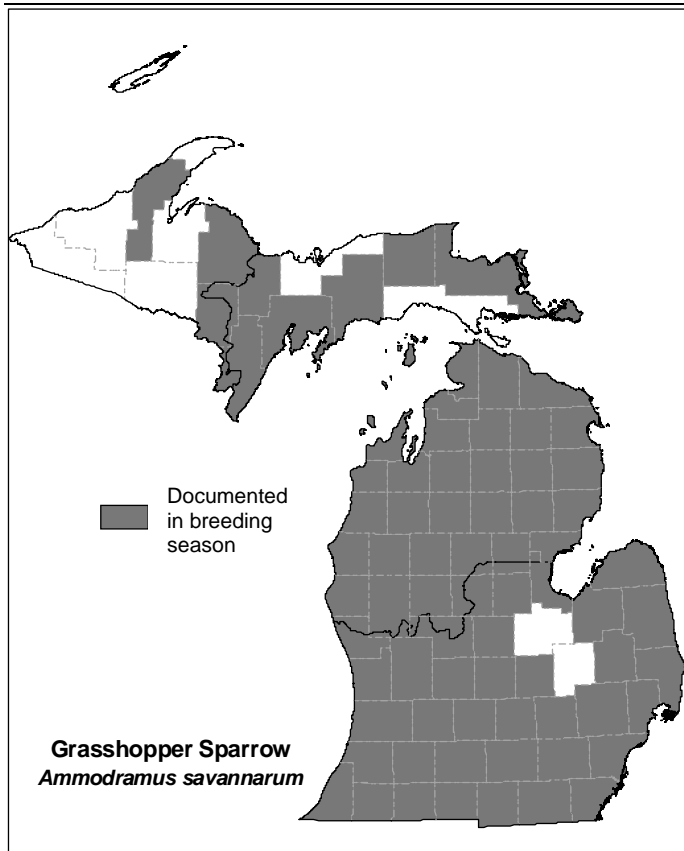


BIRDS



Grasshopper Sparrow

(*Ammodramus savannarum*)

DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE: A rare species in the 1800s, the Grasshopper Sparrow is now locally common throughout the Lower Peninsula though it has been declining in recent decades. It is listed as a species of special concern.

ASSOCIATED LANDSCAPE FEATURES: prairie; idle/old field; hayland; pasture; right-of-way; savanna

ASSOCIATED THREATS: conversion to agriculture lands; altered fire regime; grazing & mowing patterns; industrial/residential/recreational development; invasive plants & animals

COMMENTS: Nest parasitism by Cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*) may be significant. Conversion of grasslands either to intensive agriculture or to forest through succession reduce suitable nesting habitat.