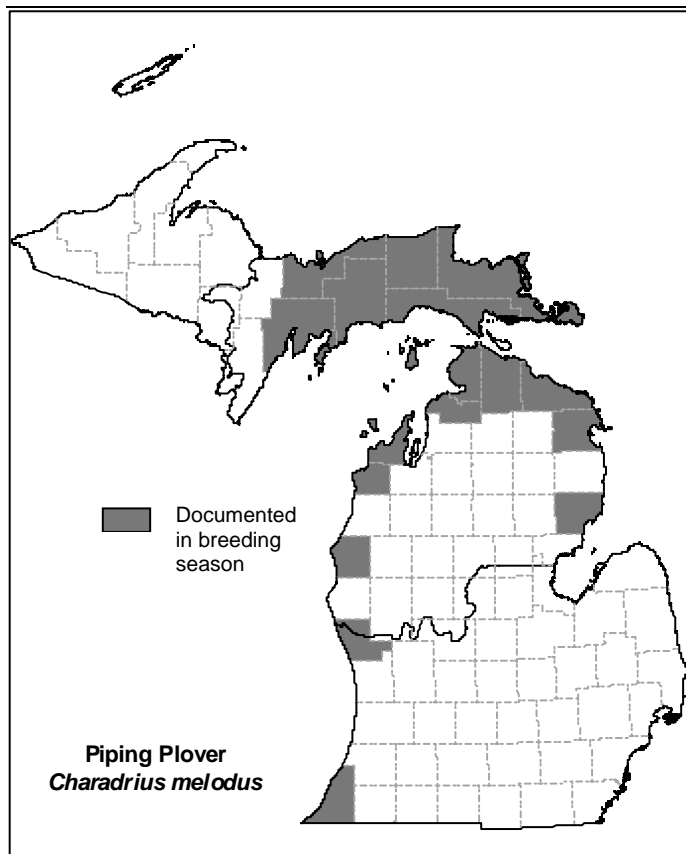


# BIRDS



## Piping Plover

(*Charadrius melodus*)

**DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE:** Listed as endangered federally and in Michigan, the 2004 breeding season saw the production in the wild of 93 fledged young from 55 breeding pairs. This represents an increase in breeding pairs of more than 250% over ten years.

**ASSOCIATED LANDSCAPE FEATURES:** coastal emergent wetland; coastal dune/beach; Great Lakes island; large contiguous natural landscape

**ASSOCIATED THREATS:** disease, pathogens, & parasites; fragmentation; altered hydrologic regimes; industrial/residential/recreational development; non-consumptive recreation; other biological interactions (nest predation); pesticides & herbicides

**COMMENTS:** Protection of breeding pairs and nest sites from human recreational disturbance and shoreline development is pivotal to successful production and eventual recovery. Public education and awareness is important in avoiding disturbance to nesting plovers. The natural processes that maintain dune ecosystems (e.g., disturbance from wind and water erosion, periodic blowouts) must be protected in order to insure long-term persistence of this species.