

BIRDS



Northern Harrier

(*Circus cyaneus*)

DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE: Harrier populations are in decline, due primarily to a loss of wetland habitat throughout the State. The Northern Harrier is currently listed as a species of special concern in Michigan.

ASSOCIATED LANDSCAPE FEATURES: prairie; idle/old field; hayland; pasture; row crop; fence row; lowland shrub; dry conifer; forest opening; inland emergent wetland; ephemeral wetland; river/stream/riparian/floodplain corridor; coastal emergent wetland; snag/cavity; other (perches (stumps, posts, etc.))

ASSOCIATED THREATS: conversion to agriculture lands; disease, pathogens, & parasites; altered fire regime; fragmentation; grazing & mowing patterns; altered hydrologic regimes; incompatible natural resource mgmt; industrial/ residential/recreational development; invasive plants & animals; mining practices; non-consumptive recreation; other biological interactions (mammal and bird nest predators, trampling of nests by deer); pesticides & herbicides; removal of non-timber flora; urban, municipal, and industrial pollution; wetland modifications

COMMENTS: Low perches are necessary for successful foraging.