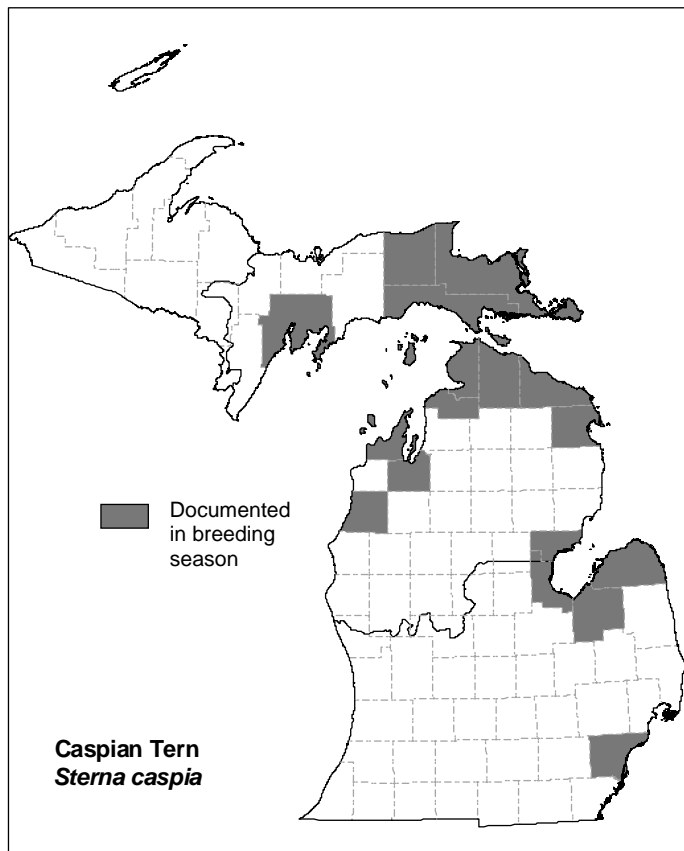


BIRDS



Caspian Tern (*Sterna caspia*)

DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE: Listed as a threatened species in Michigan, the Caspian Tern has never been common in the State. Caspian Terns increased dramatically, to an average of 1,800 pairs, in the latter half of the 20th century in response to increases in alewife (*Alosa pseudoharengus*) and smelt (*Osmerus mordax*) populations in the Great Lakes. Currently, they are locally distributed in the Eastern Upper Peninsula and Northern Lower Peninsula in colonies along the shores of Lake Michigan and Lake Huron.

ASSOCIATED LANDSCAPE FEATURES: inland lake; inland island; coastal dune/beach; Great Lakes island

ASSOCIATED THREATS: invasive plants & animals; other biological interactions (competition with gulls and cormorants for nest sites; predation by owls and gulls); removal of wildlife; urban, municipal, and industrial pollution

COMMENTS: Contamination by PCBs or heavy metals may cause colony abandonment. Mortality caused by entanglement in fishing lines is poorly documented but may be significant.