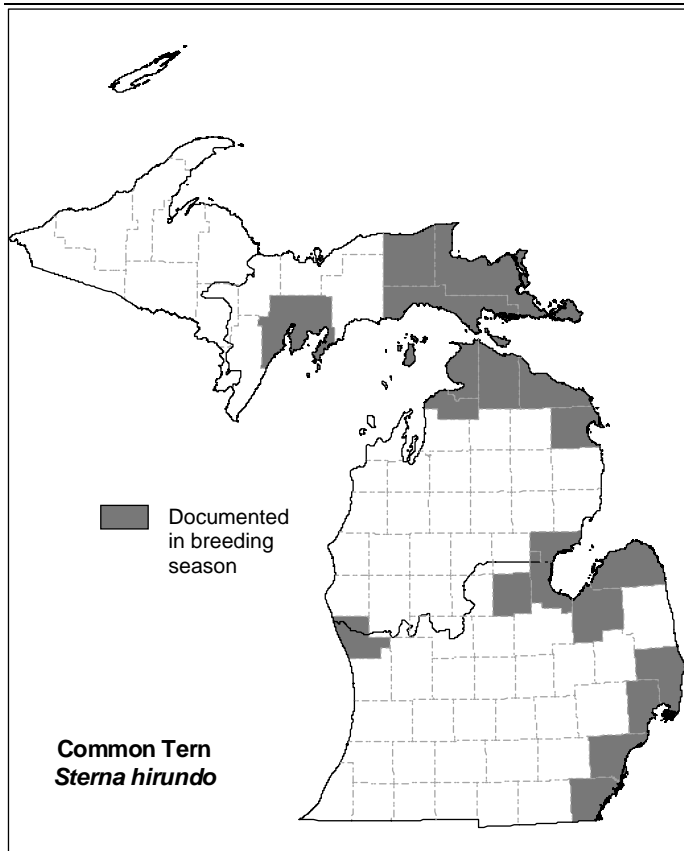


BIRDS



Common Tern

(*Sterna hirundo*)

DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE: Populations have declined from highs of over 6,000 breeding pairs to estimates of less than 1,500 breeding pairs from the early 1990s. The species is currently listed as threatened within the State. Declines are attributed to habitat loss, competition with gulls, predation, and environmental contaminants.

ASSOCIATED LANDSCAPE FEATURES: inland emergent wetland; inland lake; inland island; river/stream/riparian/floodplain corridor; coastal emergent wetland; coastal dune/beach; Great Lakes island

ASSOCIATED THREATS: disease, pathogens, & parasites; altered hydrologic regimes; industrial/residential/recreational development; invasive plants & animals; non-consumptive recreation; other biological interactions (competition with gulls for nest sites; predation by gulls, mammals, reptiles, and other birds); pesticides & herbicides; urban, municipal, and industrial pollution

COMMENTS: Contamination by organochlorides and heavy metals may affect production. Residential and recreational development along shorelines eliminates current and potential breeding habitat.