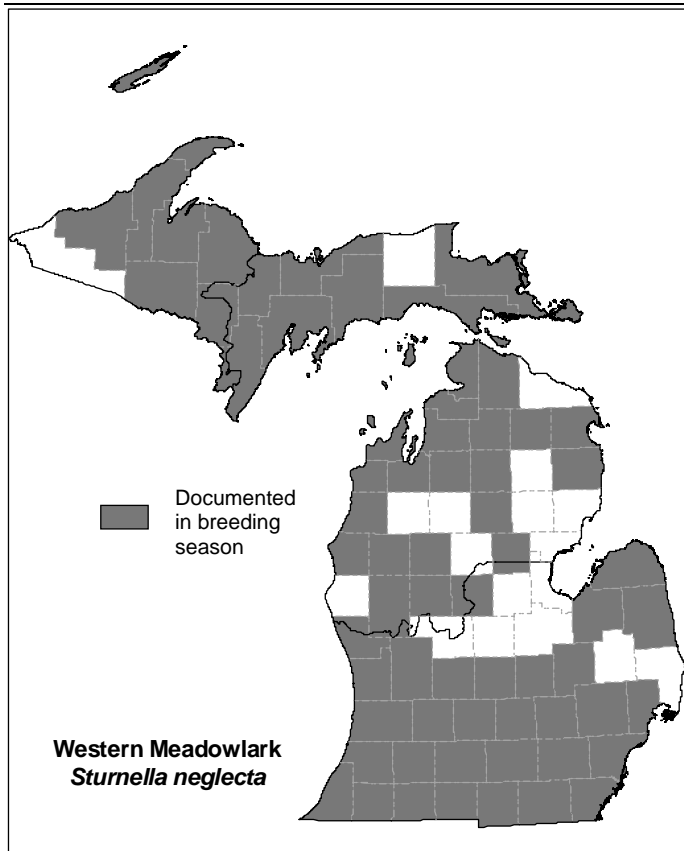


BIRDS



Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*)

DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE: The Western Meadowlark is a fairly recent addition to the fauna of Michigan with the first confirmed record occurring in 1894. While populations increased from the 1930s through the 1950s, it has been in decline and is currently scattered and uncommon statewide. The Western Meadowlark is a species of special concern.

ASSOCIATED LANDSCAPE FEATURES: prairie; idle/old field; hayland; pasture; right-of-way; savanna; dry conifer; forest opening; ephemeral wetland; large contiguous natural landscape

ASSOCIATED THREATS: fragmentation; invasive plants & animals; other biological interactions (predation by raptors, crows, and mammals)

COMMENTS: Nest parasitism by Cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*) may be significant.