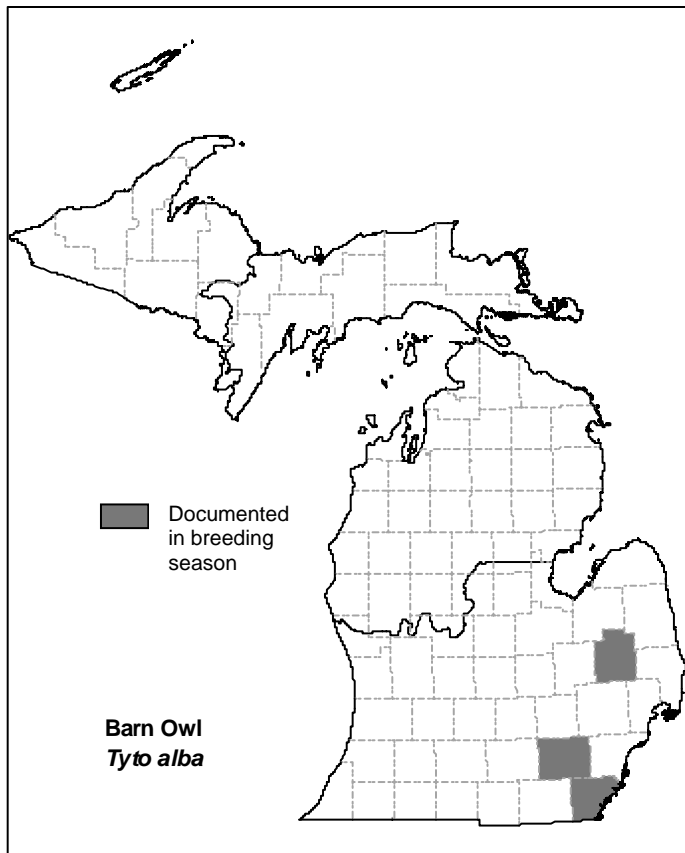


BIRDS



Barn Owl

(*Tyto alba*)

DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE: Listed as an endangered species in Michigan, the Barn Owl is extremely rare in the State and is currently known to breed in few isolated sites in the Southern Lower Peninsula. The last confirmed breeding in the State dates from the 1980s.

ASSOCIATED LANDSCAPE FEATURES: prairie; hayland; pasture; right-of-way; inland emergent wetland; ephemeral wetland; inland rock/cliff/ledge; suburban/small town; snag/cavity; other (barns); large contiguous natural landscape

ASSOCIATED THREATS: climate change; conversion to agriculture lands; altered fire regime; fragmentation; incompatible natural resource mgmt; industrial/residential/recreational development; other biological interactions (predation by great horned owl); pesticides & herbicides; wetland modifications

COMMENTS: Nesting is predominantly associated with artificial structures, specifically barns, rather than natural nesting substrates. Conversion of unfragmented grassland, hayland, and pasture to brushland and row crop has reduced habitat. Roadside grasslands may be attractive and contribute to vehicular mortality. Some secondary poisoning by rodenticides may occur.