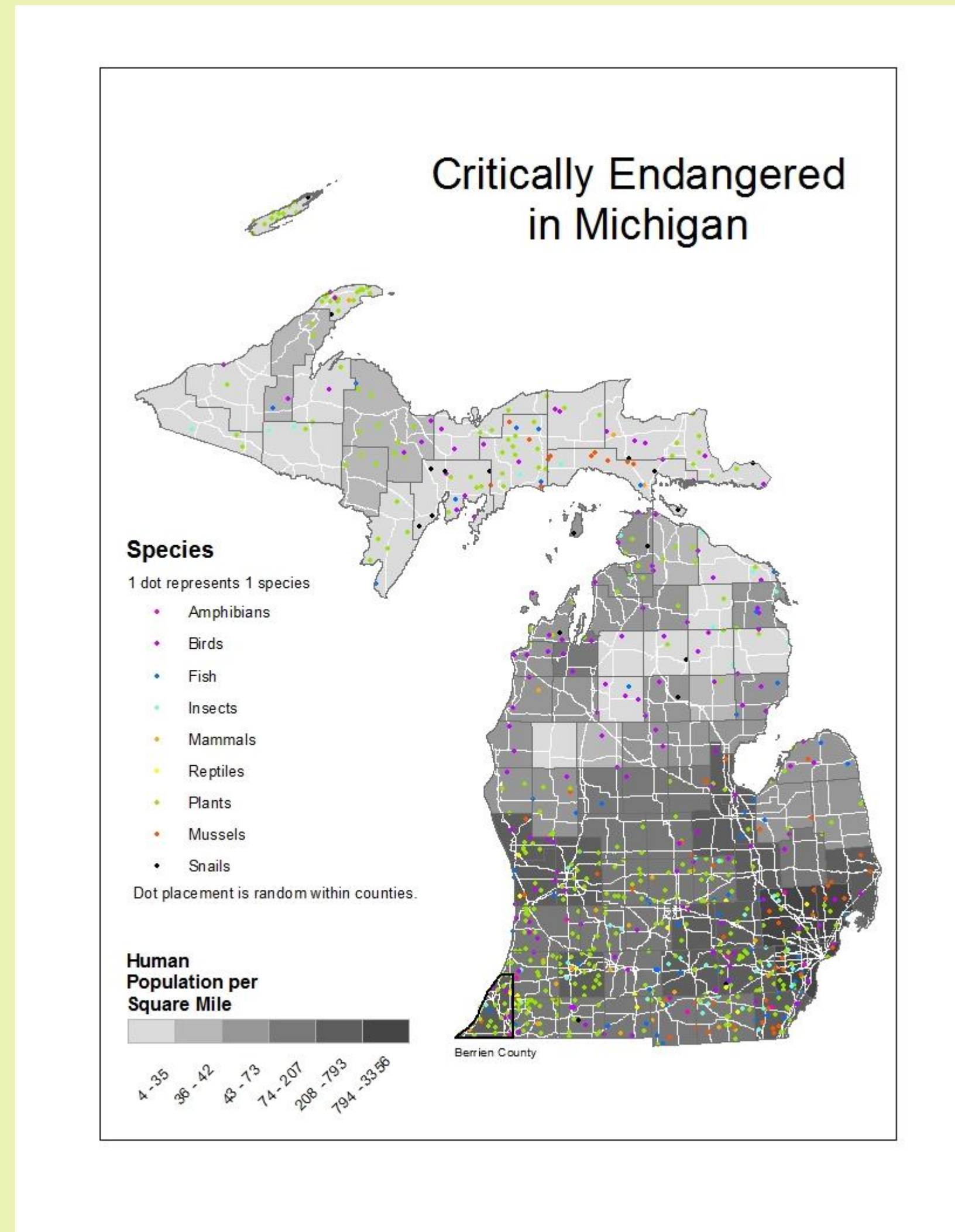


Count Them While You Can...

A glimpse at the number of species ranked as being critically imperiled in Michigan compared to human population density.

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Background

Critically imperiled species in Michigan are given a state ranking of S1 because of a couple of reasons:

- Extreme rarity
- Five or fewer sightings
- Species suffered steep declines in population

Are the most critically imperiled species found in the most populous areas?

No

- Berrien County (outlined in the main map) has the most critically imperiled species, with 34.
- Berrien County contains habitats that are scarce, such as dunes.
- The county contains major roadways along its east and west boundaries, which can contribute to habitat fragmentation.

Which are seeing more of the effects of development, plants or animals?

Plants

- Plants are unable to get up and move when their habitat is taken.
- Michigan is seeing the direct results of this with 347 plant species having a rank of S1.
- Compared to plants, birds have about a third as many species with the S1 ranking.

Concluding Thoughts...

- Many S1 species are found in the southern portion of lower Michigan.
- The high number of S1 species in southern lower Michigan may be due to the number of highways, interstates, and development located in these areas causing habitat fragmentation.
- Habitat fragmentation compacts certain habitats, such as large wooded areas, changing them to edge habitats.
- Critically endangered species may be losing their homes to edge habitats and to the species that occupy edge habitats.

