



2016 PROJECT NIGHTHAWK

New Nests and Cameras

The 2016 nesting season was comparatively good for nighthawks. There were five confirmed nests in 2016 — two rooftop nests (Concord and Keene) and three ground nests (Concord, Ossipee and Conway).

The folks from Ashuelot Valley Environmental Observatory (AVEO) — the citizen science arm of the Harris Center for Conservation Education — confirmed a rooftop nest

in downtown Keene. New this year were two mountain top nests, one on Bayle Mt. in Ossipee and the other on White Lot Brook in East Conway.

This year we attempted to capture nest activity on camera. Two field cameras were installed where nesting occurred on rooftops last year. One camera on the roof of White Mountain Imaging in Concord and the

other on the roof of The Buell Building in Franklin. Unfortunately, neither rooftop were nest hosts this year, however, the camera was indeed functioning as evidenced by the picture of the crow .

We never confirmed a nest in Franklin but a pair was active on a rooftop near the Buell Building. The White Mt. Imaging pair relocated to a ground site nearby (see below).



Field camera picture

Concord

Concord was host to one of the ground nests on Henniker St, which is located across the street from White Mt. Imaging where there was a rooftop nest last year. The nest contained two eggs that hatched on 7/7 (est.). One chick fledged on 7/25; the other chick last seen on 7/14 well before fledging.



Eggs



Nest Area

Henniker St.



Chick

Steeplegate Mall was Concord's other confirmed nest site with a nest on the roof of the Bon-Ton area of the Mall. The nest was confirmed by behavior displayed by the adults.

Concord Coordinated Watch Results

- * 2 confirmed nests
- * 7 males, 2 females

Active Sites

- * Henniker St.
- * Steeplegate Mall
- * Broken Ground
- * Dept. of Safety, Hazen Drive

All photos by Rebecca Suomala.

Keene

KSC Media Arts Building

Early in the season, observation of a male and female nighthawk landing on the Keene State College Media Arts Bldg. indicated a possible nest on the rooftop. With the roof scheduled to be replaced in the coming week a search of the rooftop was conducted. No nest was found!



Photo by Jane Koliass

West Street

On July 7th Brett Thelen of AVEO checked the roof of a building on West Street and discovered a nest containing a female nighthawk and one nearly fledged chick!



Female & Chick



On the evening of 7/10 the chick was discovered on a stoop at 34 West St. with the male close by. After nearly an hour the chick flew off to a nearby location. This was the last sighting of the chick.

West St. photos by Brett Amy Thelen.

Keene Coordinated Watch Results

- * 1 confirmed nest
- * 2 males, 2 females

Active Sites

- * Keene State College Media Arts Bldg.
- * West St.

Ossipee

Bayle Mountain

Excerpts from "Bayle Mountain, Bears, Bobcats and Nighthawks" written by Jane Koliass

Bayle Mt. sits in the middle of the Ossipee ring dyke. The summit at 1853', is a smooth rocky cone studded with small red pine and tons of blueberry bushes. The view is 360° and includes Ossipee, White, and Silver Lakes and Mt. Cranmore. Fire consumed 275 acres in May of 2015 making it an attractive nesting site for nighthawks.

Nighthawks were heard on July 4th at the summit of Bayle Mt. by Lynne Hart as she waited for the fireworks to begin. This finding prompted Bob Quinn and Jane Koliass to head up to investigate. Jane writes, "We summited well before any expected nighthawk activity to explore the top of the cone . . . maybe finding a nighthawk nest. We discovered we were not alone, finding a small black bear dining on blueberries along the bottom edge of the rocky cone."



Bayle Mt. by Bob Quinn.

After stationing themselves at 8pm, during the next 45 minutes they tallied a total of four nighthawks flying off to the west including one male which flew over to peent and boom along the western edge of the cone, enough activity to warrant another trek up the mountain. Their next trip fell towards the end of the nighthawk season when they glimpsed a bobcat and heard a distant peent.

Did nighthawks nest up here this year? Behavior indicates that, yes, it did. Perhaps the bear and the bobcat know, but they're not saying. Maybe next year, if we're lucky, nighthawks will come back to Bayle Mt. and we'll have another chance to find out.

Ossipee Coordinated Watch Results

- * 1 confirmed nest
- * 6 males, 1 female

Active Sites

- * Thicket
- * West Branch
- * Red Baron
- * Bayle Mt.

Bears,

Berries and

Nighthawks

Oh, MY!

East Conway

White Lot Brook

Rebecca Bracken of Tin Mountain Conservation Center and her survey partner discovered this nest on July 20th. The nest site was on an old skid trail on land harvested in 2011. The female put up when they approached revealing two eggs. No chicks could be found in later visits but there were at least three male nighthawks in the area.



Photo by Rebecca Suomala.



Photo by Rebecca Bracken.



New Nest Site!

Grantham 2nd annual PEENT social

Hosted by Sheridan and Deb Brown

June 11th was a cold and foggy evening, not conducive to nighthawk displays so it was a total surprise to have 13 nighthawks at the Rt. 114 log landing early in the watch period. They appeared to be feeding, and most were silent, although there was what seemed to be a local male that peented for a bit. And even more intriguing was a silent bird that came in



Photo by Jane Koliias.

low, flew over the yard and either landed or disappeared around the building. That behavior is more typical of a female. So what was going on? Maybe a group of late migrants plus some local birds down from the Grantham mountain to feed, and possibly a pair right at the log yard.

**“PEENT-People
Enthusiastically
Enjoying
Nighthawks
Together”**

Well fed baby Peregrine Falcons

May 28th, 2016

Note the white wing patch.

It was a sad day when a photo taken by the new Peregrine Falcon camera on the Brady-Sullivan Tower in Manchester showed the chicks being fed a migrating nighthawk.



Photo by Single Digits.

Migration

Record breaking tally in Concord - 6,794!

Two nights provided a spectacular sight!

8/26/16 2,014

8/27/16 2,344

Photo by Leslie Baron.

Hawaiian Shirt Night



Photo by R. Vallieres.

The Concord Nighthawk Migration watch is an entirely volunteer endeavor, led by Rob Woodward who started it in 2008. He was joined by Zeke Cornell and the two of them have counted more than 20,000 nighthawks during fall migration. Rob has retired and will no longer be able to lead this watch. He deserves special thanks for all his work counting nighthawks and we hope others will continue his legacy.

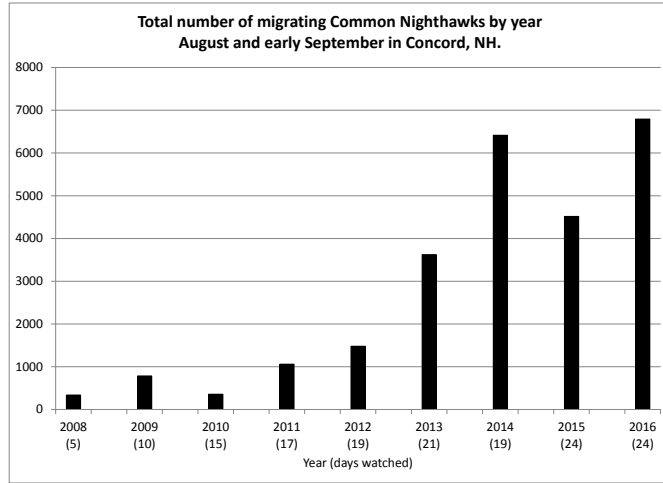


Photo by Rebecca Suomala.

Volunteers

Peg Ackerson
Rebecca Bracken
Deb Brown
Phil Brown
Sheridan Brown
Tim Brown
Monica Coll
Carl Cooley
Zeke Cornell
Gail Deary
Liz Garlo
Renee Gustafson

Doreen Harper
Leah Hart
Lynne Hart
Russ Hart
Carol Healey
Dick Hocker
Dave Howe
Rich Kaszeta
Deb Kissell
Jane Kolias
Carol Kowalski
Doreen Lania

Susan Lee
Bob Linna
Connie Linna
Jeanne-Marie Maher
Chris Martin
Celeste McQuarrie
Tom McShane
Bill Parkinson
Stephanie Parkinson
Carol Plato
Bob Quinn
Linda Rauter

Udo Rauter
Marsha Richelli
Fern Schneider
Erin Sharkey
Mark Suomala
Carole Wood
Dave Wood
Lee Woodworth
Roger Woodworth

Ashuelot Valley Environmental Observatory volunteers

Dorothy Arroyo
Pam Blair
Mike Bunker
Tricia Rose Burt
Jenifer Dickinson
Vic Drake
Jessica Dude
Diana Duffy
Arianna Ferrario
David Hoitt
Jane Kolias
Rob Lanfranchi

Gordon Leversee
Eric Masterson
Frank Mazzola
Mike Moses
Bob Quinn
Justin Remmers
John Rice
Steve Roberge
Barbara Skuly
Shauna Sousa
Brett Amy Thelen

Goatsucker Gala



The Annual Goatsucker Gala was held in October for nighthawk, whip-poor-will and Olive-sided Flycatcher volunteers. Some dressed for the occasion and we all enjoyed good food and informative presentations on the summer's work. Thank you to all of the volunteers who make these projects possible.



Gala photos by Bob Linna.



2016 Donors - Thank you!

We gratefully acknowledge the many hosts who have installed nest patches on their roof tops and the many others who have helped support Project Nighthawk with their donations over the past year.

Nancy & Blake Allison
Blake-Nuttall Fund
Gertrude Couch Trust
James & Leslie Casey
Bob & Dana Fox
Elizabeth Janeway
Jane Kolias

Mary Malan
Jane Rice
Arlene & Jeffrey Soule
Arthur & Dawn Stavros
Roy Van Vleck
Paul West
CherylAnne Williams