



2014

PROJECT NIGHTHAWK

The 2014 Common Nighthawk season was very different from the 2013 season...in a good way. We were off to a slow start but the season kicked into high gear around late June with activity at old and new locations. Although downtown Concord was very quiet

we had lots of activity in other Concord locations and an exceptional year in the Ossipee area. Keene was on target with the usual numbers of displaying birds in familiar locations. Overall we had a total of 3 confirmed nests and as many as 6

additional probable nests. To top off the fairly successful nesting season, fall migration numbers broke all records with a total of 2,811 birds tallied on the evening of August 24 at a migration watch in Concord.



Photo by Brett Ferry

Two eggs discovered by NH Fish and Game staff at Concord Airport.

Two fledged chicks at Broken Ground.



Photo by Rebecca Suomala



Photo by Jane Kolias

Red arrow indicates nest location in densely vegetated area at Broken Ground.

Concord Highlights

Three nests were confirmed in Concord. One on the rooftop at Mellen Company which failed for unknown reasons and one at Broken Ground which successfully fledged two chicks. The third nest was at the Concord Airport and we suspect it was a renest of the pair that failed at Mellen. Based on behavioral observations we also believe there were nests at Industrial Park Drive and on the rooftop of Sears at the Steeplegate Mall.

Concord Coordinated Watch Results

- 3 confirmed nests.
- 8 males, 3 females

Active Sites

Broken Ground, Industrial Park Drive, Mellen Company, NHTI, Pembroke Sand & Gravel, Steeplegate Mall, 53 Regional Drive

Keene Highlights

Brett Amy Thelen (AVEO/Harris Center for Conservation Education) and the crew of Keene nighthawk watchers conducted three coordinated surveys on June 10, June 26, and July 16. Four individual birds (three males and one female) were observed, down by one male from both 2013 and 2012. No nests were confirmed but observations indicated a possible nesting attempt on People's United Bank that failed for unknown reasons.



Keene volunteers.

Photo by Rebecca Suomala



Nighthawks in chase are difficult to photograph but the white throat of these males still stands out. Photo by Dave Hoitt



Ossipee Pine Barrens at Red Baron Gate. Photo by Rebecca Suomala

Ossipee Highlights

Ossipee was very busy this season with record numbers of birds since we began watches in 2012. Volunteers observed 9 nighthawks during one watch at the Red Baron Gate including two possible chicks flying. During one watch four volunteers took up stations in one area so that more accurate observations could be made during the frantic evening activity.



Ossipee volunteers. Photo by Jane Kolias

Ossipee Coordinated Watch Results

- 4 to 5 probable nests.
- 7 males, 3 females, 2 probable chicks

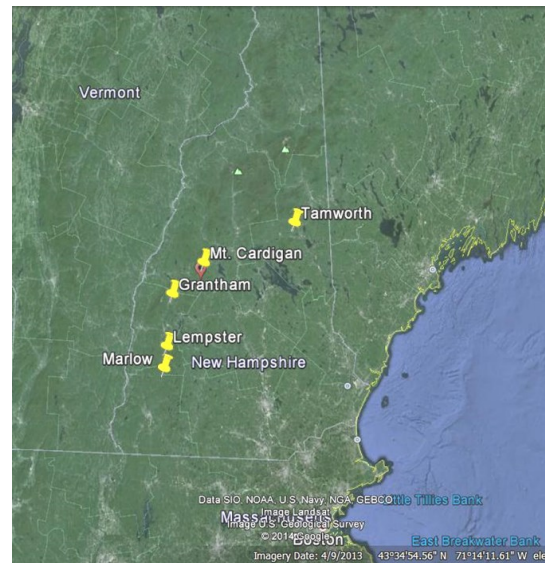
Active Sites

Thicket, Red Baron Gate, West Branch Preserve

Around the State

Reports of nighthawk sightings from other areas of the state.

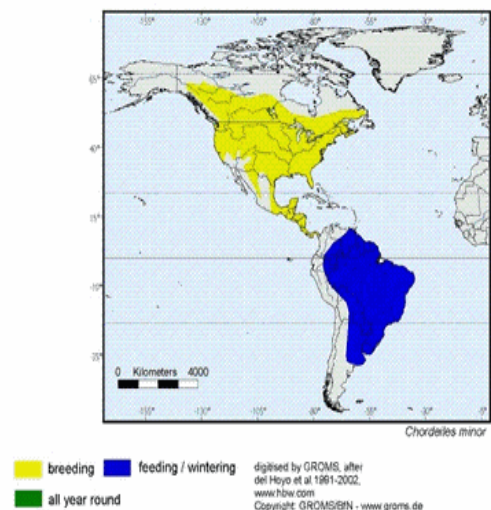
- GRANTHAM: 1 bird from homeowner
- MARLOW: 2 over Sand Pond near Huntley Mountain (on Lempster boarder)
- TAMWORTH: Depot Road, 2 birds early in season, 5 birds in mid-July (near Ossipee Pine Barrens)
- LEMPSTER: 1 at Long Pond on 6/17/14
- MT. CARDIGAN: 2 males booming on 6/19/14



To quote the famous Yogi Berra, "You can observe a lot just by watching." For nighthawk watchers it was a banner migratory season in Concord. Rob Woodward has been leading the effort to tally migrating nighthawks since 2008. This year Rob counted 6,416 nighthawks which nearly doubled the 2013 count of 3,608. The daily high count occurred on August 24th with 2,811 nighthawks observed. In

Florence, Massachusetts, Tom Gagnon counted 7,791 migrating nighthawks which was also a record high for his site. Bellows Falls, Vermont had fewer migrating nighthawks then in previous years. There is speculation that the nighthawks that usually migrated down the Connecticut River shifted their migratory route eastward thus boosting the numbers for New Hampshire and Massachusetts sites.

Migration Highlights



Plans for Next Year

We are always in need of more volunteers to watch, whether it's helping in Concord, Keene and Ossipee or following up on reports elsewhere in the state (see top of page for locations).

1. We'd like to explore the possibility of using drones to observe and monitor nest sites. If you have a drone or know someone who does please let us know. We also could use help looking into the legalities of using drones.
2. Close monitoring of successful and unsuccessful nest sites in the Concord area.
3. More observations from the Ossipee area to determine how many nighthawks are present and the extent and location of nests sites.

Volunteers

Thank you to the dedicated volunteers who logged over 300 hours for Project Nighthawk and traveled over 1,900 miles.

Darlene Bean	Jane Kolias	Udo Rauter
Ken Bergman*	Doreen Lania	Jane Rice
Pam Blair*	Lisa LaPierre	Marsha Richelle
Chris Borg	Susan Lee	Chris Rines
Jane Bourne	Cliff Lerner*	Susan Sielke*
Dan Broderick*	Sharon Meany*	Barbara Skuly*
Matthew Cecchetelli*	Marisa Morrison*	Arlene Soule
Zeke Cornell	Bill Parkinson	Sharon Stout*
Michelle Emerson	Stephanie Parkinson	Rebecca Suomala
Elizabeth Garbo	Carol Plato	Brett Amy Thelen*
Dave Hoitt*	Linda Powers	Robert Vallieres
David Howe	Tara Pratt*	Susan Whittemore*
Russ Johnson	Bob Quinn	Sarah Wilson*
Ellen Kenny	Linda Rauter	Mary Wright*



Russ Johnson taking observations in Ossipee.

Photo by Rebecca Suomala

* Ashuelot Valley Environmental Observatory volunteer

Volunteer of the Year Award



The 2014 Volunteer of the Year Award was shared by two long-time, deeply committed volunteers from Concord, Jane Kolias and Stephanie Parkinson. Jane and Stephanie are key volunteers for Project Nighthawk and have been instrumental in its success. Photo by Terri Donsker



2014 Goatsucker Gala at the McLane Center.

Photo by Siobhan Basile

Supporters and Partners

We gratefully acknowledge the following companies and individuals who have helped support Project Nighthawk.

Antioch University New England
Ashuelot Valley Environmental Observatory
James & Leslie Casey
Charter Trust Company
Mark Ciborowski
Claremont School District
Concord Public Library
Kathleen Connors
Cracker Factory
Filtrine Manufacturing
Renee Gustafson
Hannafords
Town of Hanover
Harris Center for Conservation Education
Havenwood Health Service Center

Richard Hocker
Tracy Holmes
Interface Stereo
City of Keene
Keene Cinemas
Keene High School
Keene Housing Authority
Keene State College
Lane Kirby
Susan Lee
Lyme Timber Company
Monadnock Affordable Housing
Tami Nason
NH Dept. of Environmental Services
Bill & Stephanie Parkinson

PC Connection
Mike Reynolds
Linda & Udo Rauter
Marsha Richelli
St. Paul's School
Seacoast Scaffolding
Smith's Medical
Stevens High School
Arthur & Dawn Stavros
Solloway & Hollis, PLLC
USA CRREL
CherylAnne Williams
Woodsville High School
Mary Wright