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2015 PROJECT NIGHTHAWK

The 2015 Common Nighthawk season started slowly, similar to the 2014 season, but activity picked up in old and new locations providing lots of excitement. The first nighthawk sighting in 2015 was unusually early on May 9 in Amherst. We were able to confirm two nests, both on rooftops, one in Franklin and the other in Concord, providing monitors with some great observations. Keene held steady with the usual number of birds, downtown Concord remained quiet, and surprisingly Ossipee had much less activity than last year. In mid-July the first ever coordinated watch was conducted in Grantham.

Concord Highlights



Photo by Rebecca Suomala.

One fledged on 7/27—
right at the loading dock
- EEK!

White Mountain Imaging rooftop

7/14 – Two 3-4 day old chicks



Photo by Rebecca Suomala.

Many thanks to White Mountain Imaging allowing us rooftop access which enabled us to confirm a nest site which produced two chicks. To our dismay one chick was found desiccated at about 10 days old. Volunteer observers accumulated a total of 84 hours at this site alone.



Photo by Rebecca Suomala.

32 days old (fully
developed at 45-50
days old)



Photo by Rebecca Suomala.

Other probable nest sites:

Steeplegate Mall
Broken Ground

Concord Coordinated Watch Results

- ◆ 1 confirmed nest
- ◆ 7 males, 2 females

Active Sites

- ◆ White Mountain Imaging
- ◆ Broken Ground
- ◆ Steeplegate Mall
- ◆ Industrial Park Drive

Franklin Highlights

To our delight, a rooftop nest was found in Franklin for the first time in Project Nighthawk history. The building owner, Todd Workman, was very enthusiastic about this nest and helpful with monitoring. One chick decided to explore a little early and ended up on the sidewalk! Two great folks at a nearby building tried to pick up the bird but it fluttered into the middle of Central Ave!! Traffic was stopped and the bird was herded into some evergreen shrubs on the edge of the sidewalk. A call went out for help and Becky Suomala of NH Audubon came to the rescue. She retrieved the chick from the hedge and put it back up on the roof, where mom and a second chick were comfortably snuggled up to a beer bottle!



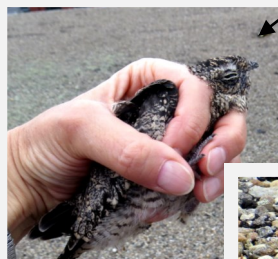
Photo by Oscar Grano.

Mom defended the chicks on the roof when the wayward chick was returned



Photo by Rebecca Suomala.

Becky believed she was out to rescue a much younger chick and was very surprised by what she found!



Wow - it IS a chick, about 18 days old



Photos by Rebecca Suomala.

Back on the roof!

What a great place to hide!

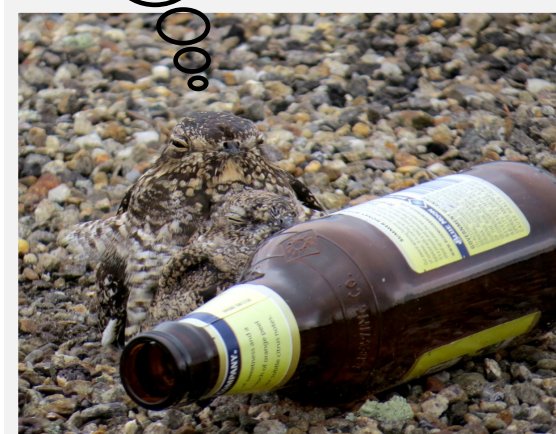


Photo by Rebecca Suomala.

Keene Highlights

The Ashuelot Valley Environmental Observatory (AVEO), a program of the Harris Center for Conservation Education, monitors Common Nighthawk activity in the Keene area. The Keene nighthawks were uncharacteristically quiet in 2015. Unfortunately, after many observations, which produced several nighthawk sightings, there were no confirmed nesting sites. The results of the coordinated surveys established at least four individual nighthawks, three males and one probable female over the course of the summer. Very similar to the 2014 results.

Black Cap Mountain, Conway



Photo by Phil Brown.

NH Audubon's Phil Brown came across this female nighthawk near an eggshell while hiking Black Cap Mountain late July with his son. The chicks were not found on future visits.



Photo by Phil Brown.

Ossipee

Ossipee Watch Results

- ♦ 7 males**
- ♦ 1 female
- ♦ 1 probable female

Behavior indicated one nest and a second nest that probably failed. These nests were never visually confirmed.

**Two males were observed in Tamworth



Roosting nighthawk in Ossipee.

Photo by Susan Lee.

2015 Migration

Concord



Photo by Rebecca Suomala.



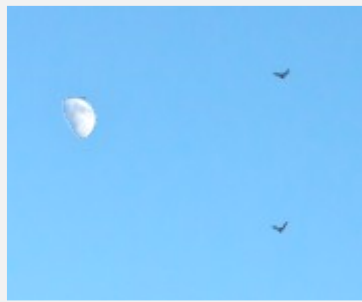
Surry Dam



Surry photos by David Hoitt.

And the migration results are in . . . drumroll please!

According to Rob Woodward the total migrating nighthawks for Concord in 2015 was 4,479. Down compared to last year's high of 6,416 which almost doubled 2013 at 3,608.



Grantham

First Annual Peent Social a.k.a. People Enthusiastically Enjoying Nighthawks Together

This year, in mid-July, Sheridan and Deb Brown led the effort to conduct the first ever coordinated night-hawk watch in Grantham. The results were a total of nine nighthawks but no behavior that indicated nesting.



Photo by Jane Kolias.

Volunteers

Bob Basile
Siobhan Basile
Phil Brown
Sheridan Brown
Chris Borg
Bill Coder
Zeke Cornell
Greg Cummings
Taylor Cummings
Gail Deary
Bob Fox

Dana Duxbury Fox
Elizabeth Garlo
Renee Gustafson
Lindsay Herlihy
Stephanie Herlihy
Dick Hocker
David Howe
Jane Kolias
Doreen Lania
Susan Lee
Bob Linna

Connie Linna
Chris Martin
Chele Miller
Corinne Null
Bill Parkinson
Stephanie Parkinson
Carol Plato
Bob Quinn
Linda Rauter
Udo Rauter
Jane Rice

Marsha Richelli
Fern Schneider
Helen Schotanus
Merle Schotanus
Arlene Soule
Becky Suomala
Robert Vallieres
Brenda Watts
Joe Watts
Carole Wood
Dave Wood

Ashuelot Valley Environmental Observatory volunteers

Pam Blair
Audrey Boraski
Diana Duffy
Wink Faulkner
Linda Heimerdinger
David Hoitt
Will Holden
Elizabeth King
Bryan Mindermann

Clif Seifer
Barbara Skuly
Brett Amy Thelen
Elijah Wyman
Mary Wright

Goatsucker Gala



Photo by John Williams.

Pam Hunt [L] and Becky Suomala [R]
coordinators of whip-or-will and nighthawk
projects at NH Audubon.

Many thanks to the dedicated volunteers who make this project possible.

Volunteers help in Concord, Conway, Franklin, Keene, and Ossipee or may follow up on sightings elsewhere in the state.

Ossipee Coordinated Watch



Photo by Rebecca Suomala.

We gratefully acknowledge the following 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.

Patch Hosts

Antioch University New England
Town of Bradford
Charter Trust Company
Mark Ciborowski
Claremont School District
Concord Public Library
Cracker Factory
Filtrine Manufacturing
Hannafords, Keene
Town of Hanover
Havenwood Health Service Center
Interface Stereo
City of Keene
Keene Cinemas
Keene High School

Keene Housing Authority
Keene State College
Lyme Timber Company
Monadnock Affordable Housing
NH Dept. of Environmental Services
PC Connection
St. Paul's School
Seacoast Scaffolding
Smith's Medical
Stevens High School
Solloway & Hollis, PLLC
USA CRREL
Woodsville High School

Donors

Blake-Nuttall Fund
James & Leslie Casey
Gertrude Couch Trust
Carol Healey
David Healy
Richard Hocker
Jane Kolias
Connie & Bob Linna
Bill & Stephanie Parkinson
David Ries
Arlene Soule
Arthur & Dawn Stavros
Roy Van Vleck
CherylAnne Williams
Mary Wright