



# 2019 PROJECT NIGHTHAWK

The main focus of our Common Nighthawk monitoring this year was to confirm activity at all of last year's active sites. We found at least one male at 11 of the 12 sites, confirmed nesting at three of these sites and probable nesting at four sites. The cold weather in late May and early June appeared to delay but not deter the start of nesting. Overall nighthawk numbers were stable this summer but the number of active sites is still very low and has declined in the past ten years. Project Nighthawk is funded by private donations and NH Fish & Game.

*-Rebecca Suomala, Project Nighthawk Coordinator*

## CONCORD

The Concord area had two confirmed nesting locations and one probable.

A male and female were observed at EJ Prescott Co., with two chicks, approximately 6-7 days old. One chick survived to fledging (see next page).

A male was observed displaying over the Bon Ton rooftop at the Steeplegate Mall. Nesting

was confirmed by multiple observations of a male on the roof through July.

A new site was discovered at the northeast corner of the Concord Airport, where a male was displaying with constant activity. Activity abruptly ceased by July 1, indicating nest failure.

### Concord Results

- ♦ 1 watch held
- 5-6 males
- 1 female (possible)

### Active Sites

- ♦ EJ Prescott
- ♦ Steeplegate Mall
- ♦ Concord Airport



EJP female first discovered on 7/3/19 brooding two chicks.



EJP female & chick 7/27/19.



Two EJP chicks 7/9/19.

Photos by Rebecca Suomala

## EJ Prescott

One of the confirmed nest sites was in Concord. It fledged one chick which stayed on site for more than 40 days and was flying well when last seen. There has been only one other nest site monitored by Project Nighthawk where a chick has stayed on site for that long.



One surviving EJP chick 7/30/19.

## Fryeburg Airport

In 2018, Charlie Nims discovered nighthawks at the Fryeburg Airport in Maine, which is close to Conway and Ossipee as the nighthawk flies. Several Project Nighthawk volunteers helped Charlie count nighthawks at the site for the Maine Breeding Bird Atlas and tallied an amazing 25 on July 8, 2018 and 16 on August 1, 2019 when I took this photo. Truly a wonderful sight.



—Rebecca Suomala

## NH Audubon



Nighthawk perched at NH Audubon's McLane Center on May 20, 2019. Photo by Zeke Cornell

# KEENE

Brett Amy Thelen (Harris Center for Conservation Education) and a crew of nighthawk watchers conducted two coordinated surveys on June 11 and June 24 at six different locations. Three individual birds were observed: two males and a probable female. Nighthawk activity was observed at Elliot Hall with a

possible nest attempt which either failed, possibly due to flooding from a rain storm, or was never initiated.

The only other activity observed was a male peenting and booming above Aubuchon Hardware. Many individual watches were done by volunteers, but no additional nighthawks were seen

## Keene Results

- ♦ 2 watches held
- ♦ Total:
  - 2 Males
  - 1 Female (probable)
- Active Sites
  - ♦ Elliot Hall — probable nest failure
  - ♦ Aubuchon Hardware

## OSSIPEE PINE BARRENS

The pine barrens are one of the only known natural nesting sites for nighthawks in the state of New Hampshire. On the June 18 coordinated watch, there were birds in the usual places, as follows

Red Baron Gate was the hotspot of activity. Four birds were observed, two males and two unknown, with a possible nest site based on continued activity and behavior. This is a known site with previous documented nesting.

The West Branch Pine Barrens, had one male on site, peenting and booming, circling overhead, and a probable female (silent bird), indicating a probable nest. Activity was in the area of last year's nest site.

At the Thicket northeast, a male and a possible female were seen at last year's nest site. Male behavior suggested nesting with consistent peenting and low booming.

We checked three sites on Depot Road in Tamworth. The log landing had two males and one or two females with lots of activity but no nesting.

The site behind #767 Depot Road, had a probable nest with two males peenting and a possible female that flew to the presumptive nest area.

At the Depot Road clear cut, there was no activity during the watch, but on June 9 one male was overhead, peenting and booming over the 2018 nest site. If there was a nest, it failed early on.

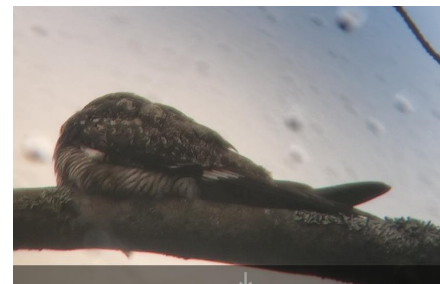
### Ossipee area Results

- ♦ 1 watch held
- ♦ 12 Nighthawks
- ♦ 9 Males
- ♦ 1 Female, 5 Possibles
- ♦ Active Sites
- ♦ West Branch Preserve
- ♦ Red Baron Gate
- ♦ Thicket NE
- ♦ Depot Rd. log landing
- ♦ #767 Depot Rd.
- ♦ Depot Rd. clearcut

## OTHER LOCATIONS

### GRANTHAM, NH

There were no coordinated watch dates this year in Grantham. Two late May reports in eBird showed sightings at two different locations in Grantham, but no summer reports. On Friday, May 17 at Eastman Village in Grantham a nighthawk was seen for at least a couple of hours in the trees over the trail to the settling ponds off Clearwater Drive. When first seen, the head was not tucked and no white throat was visible. An assist goes to a group of chickadees that drew the attention of Sheridan Brown, who was leading a bird walk.



In Grantham May 17. Photo by Sheridan Brown

### BLACK CAP MOUNTAIN, CONWAY, NH

A nest was confirmed by behavior. On June 10 one male nighthawk was observed exhibiting defensive behavior, peenting and booming. A female made an alarm quacking sound on July 9. This activity continued into July.

- ♦ Franklin - no nighthawk sightings
- ♦ Bayle Mt. - no activity
- ♦ Marlow - 1 male



## 2019 VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to the dedicated volunteers who logged over 308 hours for Project Nighthawk and traveled over 1,609 miles to make this project possible. Volunteers help in Concord, Conway, Franklin, Keene, and Ossipee or may follow up on sightings elsewhere in the state.

Bob Basile  
Siobhan Basile  
Judy Bell  
Sheridan Brown  
Tim Brown  
Zeke Cornell  
Kara Davis  
Alex Gomez

Rich Grumbine  
David Hoitt  
Dave Howe  
Pam Hunt  
Kathy Huston  
Jane Kolias  
Susan Lee  
Jason Mazurowski

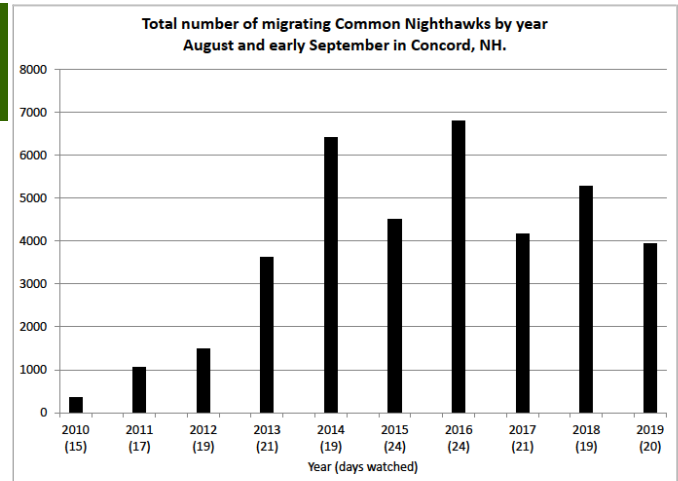
Charlie Nims  
Ellen Nunes  
Bill Parkinson  
Stephanie Parkinson  
Bob Quinn  
Robert Reynolds  
Marsha Richelli  
Barbara Skuly

Dave Smith  
Kim Snyder  
Arlene Soule  
Mark Suomala  
Robert Vallieres

## NIGHTHAWK MIGRATION

Common Nighthawks have one of the longest migration routes of any North American bird. They also depart early each fall. Common Nighthawks may travel up to 4,200 miles from their nesting grounds in Canada to their wintering grounds in South America. They migrate during the day and night, sometimes numbering in the hundreds or thousands.

The Concord Nighthawk Migration count, led by volunteer Zeke Cornell, tallied 3,930 nighthawks during the fall 2019 migration. Volunteers counted for 20 days from August 18 through September 11. The peak dates were August 27 with 806 nighthawks and August 29 with 678. Thank you to Zeke and all who helped continue this count.



Zeke Cornell

Photo by Rebecca Suomala



Concord Migration watch, 8/30/19.  
Photo by Jane Kolias

## 2019 DONORS

Siobhan & Robert Basile  
Leslie & James Casey  
Roberta Collins  
Larry Denoncourt  
Michele Halsted  
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Sigrid Scholz  
Susan Sielke  
Arlene & Jeffrey Soule

Brett Amy Thelen  
Paul West  
CherylAnne Williams  
Meta Alice Keith Bratten Foundation  
in honor of Tracy Holmes



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.