

Maine Nightjar Monitoring Project



The Maine Nightjar Monitoring Project is a long-term, citizen science effort collecting observations of Eastern Whip-poor-will, Common Nighthawk, and other nocturnal bird species in Maine.

This volunteer is conducting a time-sensitive, road-based bird survey as part of this effort.

About this Project

This project was launched in response to reports of widespread declines in Eastern Whip-poor-wills and Common Nighthawks throughout their eastern breeding ranges. Suspected declines in Maine evidenced by extensive anecdotal observations led to both the Eastern Whip-poor-will and Common Nighthawk being listed as a Species of Greatest Conservation Need in 2016 by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

Our volunteers adopt and annually monitor a 9-mile survey route which passes through areas of suitable Whip-poor-will habitat (completing surveys both at sunset and on moonlit nights) during the Summer breeding season.

These special species surveys are being conducted in partnership with the Maine Bird Atlas (2018 - 2022).