

Scientific Name: *Chordeiles minor*
Common Name: Common Nighthawk

Element ID: 8927

Alt Com Name: Engoulevent d'Amérique

Taxonomy

Taxonomic class: Aves

Order: Caprimulgiformes

Family Name: Caprimulgidae

Family Common Name:

Genus Name: Chordeiles

Genus Common Name:

Taxonomic Comments:

Ranking and Protection Status

Global Rank: G5

COSEWIC Status:

Provincial Rank: S5B,S5M

Provincial Protection Status:

Diagnostic Characteristics

Identification Comments:

The Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*) is a cryptically coloured bird roughly robin-sized bird. It has a large head and eyes and long slender wings. The Common Nighthawk lacks the "mustache" of other members of the family (Poulin et al. 1996). The Common Nighthawk is 22-24cm long and weighs 65-98g. It is a cryptically coloured bird although it is often seen foraging at dawn or dusk and may also be observed on overcast days. The Nighthawk, in Saskatchewan, is the palest of the sub-species and tends towards light grey and brown colouration. Distinct markings tend to be finer and more numerous than other races (Oberholser 1974).

It has a large head and eyes, a small bill and an enormous mouth. It lacks the rictal bristles of other caprimulgids. The wings are long and slender and appear over-sized, extending past the notched tail when at rest. There is a white bar across the primaries and distinct barring on the abdomen and flanks (Poulin et al. 1996). The call of the Nighthawk is a nasal *peent* or *beernt* emitted during flight. Perhaps the most distinctive sound of the Nighthawk is the booming sound made by males, often associated with mating displays. The booming sound is made by air rushing through the primaries as the bird pulls out of a power dive (Poulin et al. 1996).



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Lookalikes:

Habitat Information and Comments

Habitat Comments:

The Common Nighthawk appears to prefer open to semi-open breeding habitat. Jackpine woodlands in the north and badlands in southern Saskatchewan seem to be where these birds are most likely found. Wedgwood (1992) indicates that, while flat rooftops in cities are used for nesting, numbers seem to be declining in this habitat type (Smith 1996).

Foraging habitat occurs wherever insects appear in numbers. Nighthawks are often seen foraging near streetlights in the cities and marshes or other wetlands are often used as well.

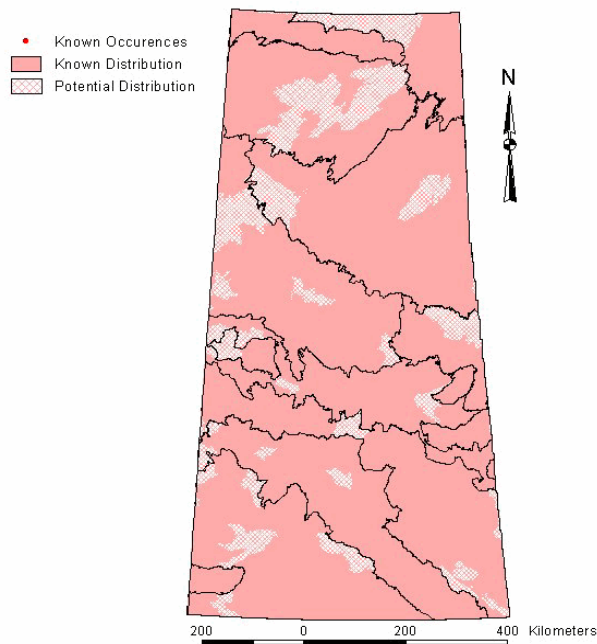
Threat Comments:

Currently no threat comments for this species.

Protection Comments:

Currently no Protection needs for this species

Saskatchewan Distribution



Rural Municipalities:

No Subnational Data

Range Extent Comments:

Breeding range estimated to be 589707 km².

Phenology

Time of Year

Phenology

Currently no phenology for this species.

Phenology Comments:

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Eggs are usually laid in mid-May but have been observed as late as 10 August in the Cypress Hills (Poulin et al. 1996). Incubation is roughly 18-20 days. Young fledge at approximately 18 days and fly well at 25-30 days. The young are full grown at 45-50 days (Poulin et al. 1996).

Spring migration occurs in late April and early May in southwestern Saskatchewan and extends through late June in northern and eastern Saskatchewan. Fall migration begins in July for some but extends into September. Weather and insect availability dictate timing of migration for this species (Poulin et al. 1996).

Reproduction and Ecology Comments

Reproduction Comments:

Currently no reproduction notes for this species.

Management Needs:

Currently no Management needs for this species.

Management Comments:

Currently no management guidelines for this species.

References

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