

## Common Nighthawk

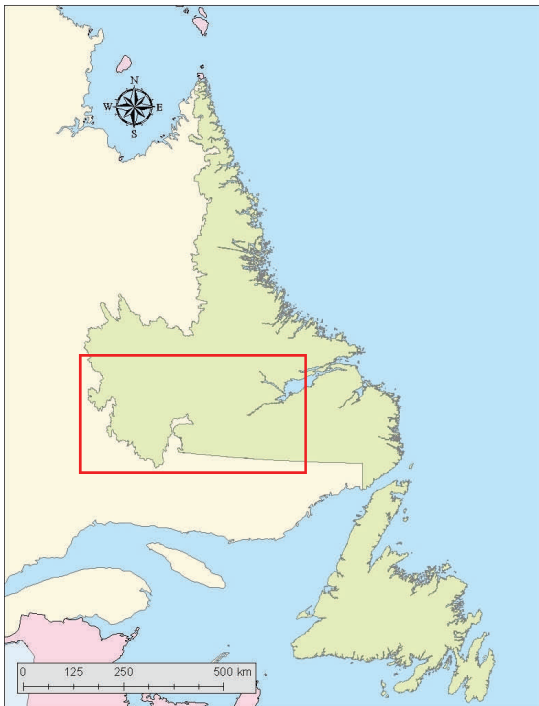
(*Chordeiles minor*)

- A medium-sized bird, with a large flattened head, large eyes and mouth, a small bill, and a long, slightly notched tail.
- They have dark brown plumage, mottled with black, white, and buff.
- Their long, slender pointed wings reveal a white bar when in flight.
- They feed on insects and are active at dawn and dusk.



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### Provincial Distribution



### Habitat/ Range

Common Nighthawks breed on bare ground, such as sand dunes, beaches, forest clearings, burned areas, rocky outcrops and barrens, peatbogs, and agricultural pastures. They are found across Canada, but in Eastern Canada they breed only in the southern part of Labrador and are considered an uncommon visitor in Newfoundland. Common Nighthawks winter throughout South America.

### Population Trends

In Canada, this rare bird is undergoing a significant long-term population decline of 4.2% per year. Population trends within the Province are unknown.

### Limiting Factors and Threats

Common Nighthawks have been affected by a decrease in the abundance of insects and an increase in habitat loss and alteration. They adapted to urbanization by making use of flat, gravel-covered rooftops as nest sites. Unfortunately, along with their traditional open habitats, these nesting sites are being lost.

### Special Significance

It is the only species of insectivorous, crepuscular bird that uses a wide variety of habitats and is widely distributed in Canada.

### You can help protect the Common Nighthawk:

- Report any sightings to the Wildlife Division.
- Participate in bird surveys and counts.
- Support habitat protection for all our rare species.

Department of Environment & Conservation

**Wildlife Division**

Endangered Species & Biodiversity

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