

Williamstown Common Nighthawk Survey Fall 2023

8/19/23 thru 9/2/23 - From 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM

28 observers saw 803 Nighthawks migrating/feeding over Cole Field on the campus of Williams College, during the 14 evenings (28 hours) we watched. Although our overall total was quite good for North County, it was really a case of feast or famine. Nighthawks were seen on 8 evenings (1 on one of those nights), and zero on 6 nights. Rain was a factor on 4 dates, and mosquitoes feasted on observers most of the 2 weeks.

By far our biggest count was on 8/25/23 when David Schaller and Paul Seaman had 515 Nighthawks under overcast skies, with high humidity and light south winds. 105 were viewed on 8/29, 71 on 8/23, 61 on 8/27, 28 on 9/2, 20 on 8/20, 5 on 8/25, and 1 on 8/26.

Other species encountered during the 2 weeks were:

Great Blue Heron
GREAT EGRET - 1
Green Heron
Turkey Vulture
Canada Goose
Wood Duck
Mallard
Common Merganser
Osprey (2 max)
Bald Eagle - 1 sub-adult
Cooper's Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk (2 max)
Merlin
Solitary Sandpiper (3 max)
Mourning Dove
EASTERN SCREECH-OWL - 1, possibly 2
Chimney Swift
Belted Kingfisher
Downy Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Pileated Woodpecker
Eastern Phoebe
Blue Jay
American Crow
Fish Crow
Common Raven
Tree Swallow
Black-capped Chickadee

Tufted Titmouse
White-breasted Nuthatch
Carolina Wren
Eastern Bluebird
American Robin
Gray Catbird
European Starling
Cedar Waxwing - everywhere
American Redstart
Common Yellowthroat
Chipping Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Northern Cardinal
Red-winged Blackbird
Common Grackle
American Goldfinch

Bat - 3 or 4 max. Species unknown
Snapping Turtle - 1 very large, crawling on land
Monarch Butterfly - 2
Sulphur Butterfly - 1

Observers on most of the evenings: David Schaller, Peter Rogers, Chuck Johnson and Chuck Kiewig
eBird data submissions by David Schaller