

MAINE NIGHTJAR MONITORING PROJECT



2024

MONITORING HANDBOOK

A PROJECT OF THE
MAINE NATURAL HISTORY OBSERVATORY

MAINENIGHTJAR.COM

MAINENATURALHISTORY.ORG

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INTRODUCTION

Thank you for agreeing to participate in the Maine Nightjar Monitoring Project. The focus of this survey is to collect data on two species of nightjars in Maine: Eastern Whip-poor-will (*Antrostomus vociferus*) and Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*). These difficult to study species are thought to have declined severely in the past 50 years. These data will be used to track changes in distribution and identify areas where these species may still be relatively abundant and guide land protection efforts, habitat management, and future research and monitoring efforts.



VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS

This project relies on volunteers to conduct standardized nightjar surveys along roadside survey routes during specific conditions.

The only experience necessary is a familiarity with and the ability to distinguish between each nightjar species' characteristic songs. It will also be essential to be familiar with non-vocal sounds such as the “booming” display of the Common Nighthawk.

Surveys are conducted in low light conditions and birds are seldom observed directly. Good hearing and the ability to recognize birds by ear is necessary.

Volunteers will conduct one survey each year along a pre-established route. All routes should be run as soon as possible within their respective lunar cycle (see Table 2) so long as weather conditions permit.

Please read carefully and follow the instructions. Compliance with these instructions will ensure standardized data collection and a successful survey.

EQUIPMENT

- DATA SHEETS AND CLIPBOARD
- SURVEY HANDBOOK
- ROUTE MAP AND COORDINATES
- FLASHLIGHT AND/OR HEADLAMP
- STOPWATCH/TIMER
- PENS/PENCILS
- GPS OR SMARTPHONE
- HAND-HELD THERMOMETER (OPTIONAL)

TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

Nightjar

Nightjars are medium-sized, cryptically colored birds of the family Caprimulgidae, or “goatsuckers”. Nightjars are generally either nocturnal (active at night) or crepuscular (active at twilight). While most are difficult to observe directly, these birds can be readily detected and identified by sound.

Survey Route

Survey routes consist of 10 to 12 survey point (each spaces approximately 1 mile apart) and are positioned throughout the state so that they pass through areas of suitable nightjar habitat. They run along roadways so they can be safely accessed at dusk and after dark.

Lunar Cycle

A lunar cycle is a period of time around the full moon when surveys must be conducted. There are either 2 or 3 suitable lunar cycles each year and the timing of these cycles change annually. For 2023, the 1st lunar cycle is May 27 to June 10 and the 2nd lunar cycle is June 26 to July 9. There is no 3rd lunar cycle in 2023.

Lunar Phase

The lunar phase describes the degree of lunar illumination and consists of 4 primary phases: Full moon (100% illumination), first quarter (50% illumination - afternoon/evening), new moon (0% illumination), and last quarter (50% illumination - late night/morning).



LOGAN PARKER

PLANNING SURVEYS

WHEN TO SURVEY

Nightjars are known to be more vocal around a full moon and relatively quiet when the moon is poorly illuminated or below the horizon. For this reason, nightjar surveys are restricted to periods of time around the full moon in May, June, and July as designated. In addition, it is important to delay your survey (if needed) to allow the moon to rise above the horizon or to not be obscured by clouds. When scheduling your survey efforts, keep in mind that the moon rises progressively later each night as it wanes (i.e., after the full moon), requiring you to stay up later into the night (or get up early) to start your survey. Common Nighthawks are crepuscular and more likely to be detected at dusk. When possible, conduct your surveys earlier in the lunar cycle for the best chance of detecting this species.

When scheduling your survey, the arrival date of Maine nightjars, the date of the full moon, and weather conditions must all be taken into consideration as follows:

Step 1

Look at table 1 below and find the start and end date of your survey period based on the location of the route.

TABLE 1. LATITUDINAL VARIATION IN ARRIVAL DATES

NIGHTJAR ARRIVAL DATE	LOCATIONS	START OF SURVEY PERIOD	END OF SURVEY PERIOD
MAY 1	SOUTHERN MAINE (SOUTH OF AUGUSTA)	MAY 15	JUNE 30
MAY 10	NORTHERN MAINE (NORTH OF AUGUSTA)	MAY 25	JULY 15

Step 2

Compare the information you found in table 1 with table 2. Your survey window is the period of time that falls within the lunar cycle appropriate for your region and within the survey period you looked up in table 1.

TABLE 2. ACCEPTABLE SURVEY WINDOWS BASED ON LUNAR PHASE FOR 2023.

LUNAR PHASE	1ST CYCLE	2ND CYCLE
WAXING MOON	MAY 15 - MAY 23 3	JUNE 14 - JUNE 21
WANING MOON	MAY 24 - MAY 30	JUNE 22 - JUNE 28

Step 3

Look at Appendix A on page 13 to narrow down when to attempt your survey. When planning, remember that surveys can be conducted anytime between 30 minutes prior to sunset and end no later than 30 minutes before sunrise. Consider making a backup plan as there is always a chance weather conditions will make it necessary to postpone a survey. It is best practice to run your survey as soon as possible (so long as conditions are suitable) within the lunar cycle to ensure your survey route is covered each year.

Step 4

As your survey window approaches, start watching the weather. Surveys can only be run when the lunar and sky conditions are suitable, as follows:

- Surveys cannot be conducted when wind is a 3 or higher on the Beaufort Scale (see Beaufort Scale table on page 8).
- Surveys cannot be conducted during adverse weather such as drizzle, rain, snow, or any conditions (such as dense cloud cover or fog) which would obscure the moon for more than 3 stops.

COMMON NIGHTHAWK



LOGAN PARKER

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Note that the moon rises later each evening during these survey periods, and that by the end of the period a pre-dawn survey would be required.

In such cases, be sure to leave roughly 1.5 hours to complete the survey so that it ends before sunrise. It is **CRITICAL** that surveys are conducted during appropriate lunar conditions, irrespective of the date within the survey period.

A table detailing sunrise, sunset, moonrise, and moonset can be found in Appendix A (page 14).

IF YOU CAN'T COMPLETE YOUR SURVEY

The Maine Nightjar Monitoring Project is a long-term monitoring effort. As such, it is essential that nightjar surveys are completed on active routes every year. If, for any reason, you are unable to complete your survey in a given year, it is important to contact the project coordinator as soon as possible to secure a substitute volunteer to cover your route.

Contact project director Logan Parker at logan@hereinthewild.com for assistance.

EASTERN WHIP-POOR-WILL



LOGAN PARKER

MAINE'S NIGHTJARS



Eastern Whip-poor-will: This nightjar is strongly associated with moonlit summer nights, during which it will “sing” its otomatopoeic song continuously for hours on end. Camouflaged by their cryptic plumage, whip-poor-wills roost by day in deciduous and mixed forests and emerge at dusk to hunt for flying insects.



Common Nighthawk: Nighthawks are swift aerialists that chase down their insect prey in flight. They are more conspicuous than other nightjars due to their crepuscular habits and bold white wing patches. Nighthawks perform aerial dives that produce audible “boom” sounds as they display above their nesting grounds.



Chuck-will's-widow: Closely related to the whip-poor-will, this bird shares many of its habits. Although never documented as breeding in Maine, chuck-will's-widow have spread northward in recent decades and have been documented in the state many times. Stockier and larger headed than the whip-poor-will, this nightjar has a cavernous mouth capable of enveloping large insect and even small bats and birds.

ROUTE LOGISTICS

Like efforts utilized elsewhere in the United States and Canada, the Maine Nightjar Monitoring Project uses unlimited radius point counts along established roadways so that survey data between years can be compared. Routes consist of routes detrieved from Breeding Bird Survey routes as well as routes targeting nightjar habitat in Maine.

The starting point for all surveys is stop number 1. All other stops are spaced approximately 1 mile apart along the route as indicated on your map (follow the UTM coordinates provided for each point).

If the one-mile mark places you in a location that is not conducive to the survey (no place to pull off, excessive highway noise, barking dogs, directly in front of a home, or an otherwise unsafe location), you may continue on for up to 0.2 miles (note this in the comment section and record the UTM location where you conducted your survey). If no suitable location can be found within 0.2 miles of the original point, skip the point and proceed to the next point (note the point skipped on your data sheet).

Be sure to continue to the exact UTM coordinate for the next point. Please be sure to follow any instructions that accompany the provided map in such cases.

If you are having trouble locating your route, contact the project coordinator so they can help you with directions. It is important you do this as soon as possible to ensure that the route is run during the appropriate survey period.

Routes may be temporarily or permanently impacted by roadwork and road closures along the route. For this reason, it is imporant to scout your route ahead of time during daylight hours (during which you can complete your annual habitat assessment).

To maintain volunteer interest, routes with no nightjars detected for two consecutive years will be removed from the pool of available routes and put back into the pool of available routes after 5 years of not being surveyed.

SURVEY FORMS

There are two data sheets that will need to be completed annually: the Maine Nightjar Survey Form (page 18) and the Survey Route Description form (page 17). The instructions below outline the tables found on the survey forms. Please report data as accurately and completely as possible. You may want to conduct a test run on a date prior to your scheduled surveys so as to become familiar with the census techniques and the form.

Survey Route Description Form: This form is used to gather data about habitat conditions along your survey route. It should be completed prior to your survey efforts at a time when habitat conditions are easily discernable. At each point, provide a general description of the point (visible within 100 meters), a count of the number of houses or other buildings, and the top 3 most dominant habitat types at the point. Habitat codes are listed at the bottom of the Survey Route Description Form. A more thorough explanation of habitat types can be found in Appendix B (page 15).

Maine Nightjar Survey Form: Observation data should be entered on the survey form during their respective survey; however, environmental conditions should be noted at the point before commencing with your observations. Do not wait to enter your environmental data or observation data until after the survey effort to avoid potential errors of omission.

COMPLETING THE MAINE NIGHTJAR SURVEY FORM

Route Name: This should be on the map you receive from your coordinator.

Observer: Record your name here.

Date: Indicate the date of the survey.

Time Start: Indicate the time at which you begin listening at stop 1.

Time End: Indicate the time at which you stop listening at stop 10.

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW



RYAN MANDELBAUMTATLER

RECORDING ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

For each point, we ask that you give an indication of the following environmental conditions. Use only the code systems detailed below. It is important to conduct surveys only under appropriate environmental conditions to ensure birds can be detected. Sunset surveys cannot be conducted when wind is a 3 or higher on the Beaufort Scale and during drizzle, rain, or snow. Moonrise surveys cannot be conducted when wind is a 3 or higher on the Beaufort Scale and during drizzle, rain, snow, or any conditions (such as cloud or fog) which would obscure the moon for more than 3 stops.

Wind: Record the rough wind speed at each stop using the Beaufort codes below. Do not begin a survey if wind is a 3 or above on the Beaufort Scale. If wind intensifies during the survey, and winds of a Gentle Breeze (3) or above persist for more than three stops, end the survey and attempt it again under better conditions.

BEAUFORT NUMBER	WIND SPEED	DESCRIPTION
0	<0	CALM - SMOKE RISES VERTICALLY
1	1-3	LIGHT AIR - WIND MOTION VISIBLE IN SMOKE
2	4-7	LIGHT BREEZE - WIND FELT ON EXPOSED SKIN; LEAVES RUSTLE
3	8-12	GENTLE BREEZE - LEAVES AND SMALLER TWIGS IN CONSTANT MOTION; LIGHT FLAGS EXTENDED - DO NOT SURVEY
4	13-18	MODERATE BREEZE - DUST AND LOOSE PAPER RAISED; SMALL BRANCHES BEGIN TO MOVE - DO NOT SURVEY
5	19-24	FRESH BREEZE - BRANCHES OF MODERATE SIZE MOVE; SMALL TREES BEGIN TO SWAY - DO NOT SURVEY

Sky Condition: Record the sky condition at each stop using the codes below. Do not begin a moonrise survey if the sky is completely overcast. Do not conduct a survey if there is heavy fog or there is persistent snow, rain, or drizzle. If cloud cover intensifies during the survey and the moon is fully obscured for more than three stops, end the survey and attempt it again under more favorable weather conditions.

CODE	SKY CONDITION	
0	CLEAR	CONDUCT SURVEY
1	PARTLY CLOUDY	CONDUCT SURVEY IF MOON IS VISIBLE
2	CLOUDY	CONDUCT SURVEY IF MOON IS VISIBLE
3	FOG	CONDUCT SURVEY IF MOON IS VISIBLE
4	DRIZZLE	DO NOT CONDUCT SURVEY
5	SNOW	DO NOT CONDUCT SURVEY
6	RAIN SHOWERS	DO NOT CONDUCT SURVEY



Noise: Assign a noise code to each stop. Noise codes are a measure of the effect of noise on your ability to hear vocalizing birds. Although we have provided examples of noises for each code, these are meant only as general guidelines.

CODE	DESCRIPTION
0	THERE IS NO APPRECIABLE EFFECT ON YOUR ABILITY TO HEAR BIRDS.
1	NOISE SLIGHTLY AFFECTS YOUR ABILITY TO HEAR BIRDS (E.G. DISTANT TRAFFIC, DOG BARKING, 1-2 CARS PASSING DURING SURVEY PERIOD).
2	NOISE MODERATELY AFFECTS YOUR ABILITY TO HEAR BIRDS (E.G. NEARBY TRAFFIC, 3-6 CARS PASSING DURING SURVEY PERIOD, AIRPLANE FLYING OVERHEAD).
3	NOISE SERIOUSLY AFFECTS YOUR ABILITY TO HEAR BIRDS (E.G. CONTINUOUS TRAFFIC NEARBY, CONSTRUCTION NOISE, LOUD SPRING PEEPER CHORUS)

Cars: Record the number of cars that pass by during each of the entire count periods as a rough index of traffic noise. Counting cars is not the primary objective of the survey, however. Cap your car counting effort at 15 cars and record it on the data sheet as “15+”. Rather than counting a high number of cars, focus your energy on listening for what vocalizations you can discern through the traffic noise or breaks in traffic.

Temperature: Record the air temperature in Fahrenheit at each stop at the beginning of each survey. The most accurate means of recording temperature would be to utilize a handheld thermometer, however, if you do not have access to such a device, your car’s built-in thermometer or local weather application will suffice.

Start Time: Record the time you start your observations at each point.

CONDUCTING THE SURVEY

While a single observer can conduct these surveys on their own, volunteers are welcome to bring a partner to assist with the survey efforts. Only one volunteer should count and record the birds detected. The other partner can act as the designated timekeeper and can announce the start of the survey and the break between the one-minute periods.

At each point, the observer will spend six minutes listening for nightjars, with each individual bird’s detections tracked across one-minute periods. What this means in practice is that you will have a single line on the survey form for each individual bird detected (see example on the following page) and you will mark whether you detect it in each of the six one-minute periods.

- When arriving at each survey point, wait at least 1 minute before commencing with your six minute listening period. During this time, you can record environmental conditions and other relevant survey details on your survey form.
- Birds will sometimes move during the count, and you will need to use your best judgment when deciding if a “new” detection is actually an additional bird or simply an already-counted bird that has moved its location.
- You will need to provide a basic estimate of the distance between you and each bird detected. Indicate whether you think each individual is >100M or <100M from your position.
- Listening and recording data should be done from a safe, stationary point outside the car and off of the roadway.
- Do not use whistling, playbacks, or any other method of coaxing birds to vocalize or move. Record birds detected during only the six-minute sample period, although you may record birds detected outside of this period in the “Comments” section of the form.
- Record birds as you hear them, rather than waiting for the sample period to be over, so as to avoid errors of omission.

WHAT SPECIES TO RECORD

While nightjars are the primary focus of this effort, the birds listed below are some of the other species you may see or hear. You are not required to gather data on species other than nightjars, but you may record other species on your datasheet so long as you can confidently identify them:

Nightjars:

Eastern Whip-poor-will
Common Nighthawk
Chuck-will's-widow*

Owls:

Eastern Screech Owl*
Great Horned Owl
Barred Owl
Long-eared Owl*
Boreal Owl*
Northern Saw-whet Owl

Other Nocturnal/Crepuscular species:

Common Loon
Black-crowned Night-heron
Yellow-crowned Night-heron*
Yellow Rail*
American Woodcock
Wilson's Snipe
Killdeer

Chimney Swift

Veery
Swainson's Thrush
Hermit Thrush
Wood Thrush
American Robin
Northern Mockingbird
Ovenbird

*These species are rare in Maine and require additional documentation. Please take additional descriptive notes, photographs, video, and/or audio recordings when possible.

If a bird that is not listed above is observed, write out the species name. Abbreviations are acceptable so long as they are easily recognized (e.g. "e. whip" for Eastern Whip-poor-will). If no birds are detected at a point, enter the point number as usual, followed by "NONE" instead of a species code, and leave the columns for each time period blank (or draw a line through them). Doing so will reduce the possibility of becoming confused during a survey and forgetting which point you are on.



SAMPLE DATA SHEET

SURVEY POINT	SPECIES	SURVEY MINUTE						MOVED?	DIR.	DIST
		1	2	3	4	5	6			
1	EASTERN WHIP-POOR-WILL	1	1	1	1	1	1		NE	<100M
1	EASTERN WHIP-POOR-WILL	0	0	1	1	1	0		S	<100M
2	NONE									
3	EASTERN WHIP-POOR-WILL	1	1	1	0	0	0		W	>100M
3	EASTERN WHIP-POOR-WILL	0	0	0	1	1	1	X	SW	<100M
3	COMMON NIGHTHAWK	0	0	0	0	1	0		SE	>100M
3	EASTERN WHIP-POOR-WILL	0	0	0	0	1	1		N	<100M
4	BARRED OWL	1	1	1	0	0	0		E	<100M
4	EASTERN WHIP-POOR-WILL	0	0	0	1	1	1		SE	>100M
5	ETC.									

Example: In this form a “0” indicates that a given individual was NOT detected, while a “1” indicates it was. For example, at Point 1 an Eastern Whip-poor-will was heard in the first one-minute period and every period thereafter. A second Eastern Whip-poor-will was first detected in the third period and heard in the following two periods before becoming silent. No nightjars were heard at Point 2. At Point 3 an Eastern Whip-poor-will was heard during the first three periods, changed location, and continued to sing from that new location. Note that the “Moved?” column is used to document an individual changing position and resuming its vocalizations. It is not used to indicate that a bird is actively foraging or flying. A different Eastern Whip-poor-will was first detected in Period 4 and heard again in Periods 5 and 6. Because it did not overlap with the first bird, there is a possibility that they are the same bird and that it moved between Periods 3 and 4. Some cues that might suggest this are if calling ended early in Period 3 and started late in Period 4, but there is no hard and fast rule. Use your best judgment and be conservative about adding new individuals. Also at Point 3, both a Common Nighthawk and an Eastern Whip-poor-will were detected in Period 5, with the latter continuing into Period 6. The fact that this bird overlapped with the second Eastern Whip-poor-will is clear evidence that there are at least two Eastern Whip-poor-wills at this point. At Point 4, a Barred Owl was heard in Periods 1-3 and an Eastern Whip-poor-will in Periods 2-6. This process would continue through Points 5-10.

Remember that each bird has its own line. Do not record two birds calling from the same direction with a “2”.

Comments: Use this field to provide any additional information not included in the table.

For example:

- other nocturnal species detected outside the observation period.
- details on noise factors that might impede your ability to detect birds (use only if you used Noise Code 3 on a given point).
- identification details of any rare or unusual species (Chuck-will's-widow, Long-eared Owl, etc.) seen or heard during or following the survey period.
- any other information you wish to convey.
- if you need extra space, please feel free to write on the back of the forms.

DATA SUBMISSION

Want to assist with entering project data? Data entry is another great way to help sustain the project. For more directions and to download the data entry spreadsheet, visit mainenightjar.com and go to the "Data Submission" page (under the "Volunteer" tab). Completed spreadsheets can be uploaded to the project site. Scans of original data sheets should be sent to logan@hereinthewild.com.

SAFETY

Your safety comes first. Please ensure that you are conscious of your safety when conducting a survey. Please take the following points into consideration:

- Consider conducting surveys in a team of two (with only one team member making observations).
- If surveying alone, make sure someone knows where your survey route is and what time you expect to return.
- Park your vehicle well off the road during survey stops and display your volunteer vehicle placard.
- Leave parking lights on throughout the duration of a count.
- Wear a reflective vest and/or use a headlamp so that other drivers are aware of your location.
- Conduct the survey near the road to avoid trespassing on private property.
- Check your clothing and skin for ticks when you get home to prevent the transmission of Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses.
- Consider notifying the local police/sheriff's department that you will be in the area conducting surveys after dark.
- If you feel unsafe for any reason, stop the survey and, when necessary, contact emergency services and notify the project coordinator to make arrangement for alternative route coverage.

QUESTIONS?

Please contact the Project Director, Logan Parker, for assistance.
logan@hereinthewild.com - (207) 649-4689

APPENDIX A. 2024 SOLAR AND LUNAR CALENDAR

WINDOW	DATE	MOONRISE	MOONSET	SUNRISE	SUNSET
1 ST LUNAR CYCLE	MAY 15	11:57 AM	2:03 AM	5:05 AM	8:01 PM
	MAY 16	1:02 PM	2:23 AM	5:04 AM	8:02 PM
	MAY 17	2:07 PM	2:39 AM	5:03 AM	8:03 PM
	MAY 18	3:10 PM	2:55 AM	5:02 AM	8:05 PM
	MAY 19	4:14 PM	3:10 AM	5:01 AM	8:06 PM
	MAY 20	5:20 PM	3:25 AM	5:00 AM	8:07 PM
	MAY 21	6:29 PM	3:43 AM	4:59 AM	8:08 PM
	MAY 22	7:41 PM	4:05 AM	4:58 AM	8:09 PM
	MAY 23	8:53 PM	4:32 AM	4:57 AM	8:10 PM
	MAY 24	10:02 PM	5:08 AM	4:56 AM	8:11 PM
	MAY 25	11:03 PM	5:55 AM	4:56 AM	8:12 PM
	MAY 26	11:53 PM	6:55 AM	4:55 AM	8:13 PM
	MAY 27	-	8:06 AM	4:54 AM	8:14 PM
	MAY 28	12:31 AM	9:24 AM	4:53 AM	8:15 PM
	MAY 29	1:02 AM	10:44 AM	4:53 AM	8:16 PM
	MAY 30	1:26 AM	12:03 PM	4:52 AM	8:17 PM

WINDOW	DATE	MOONRISE	MOONSET	SUNRISE	SUNSET
2 ND LUNAR CYCLE	JUNE 14	9:41 AM	1:48 AM	4:47 AM	8:27 PM
	JUNE 15	10:46 AM	2:35 AM	4:47 AM	8:27 PM
	JUNE 16	11:55 AM	3:11 AM	4:47 AM	8:28 PM
	JUNE 17	1:03 PM	3:38 AM	4:47 AM	8:28 PM
	JUNE 18	2:09 PM	4:00 AM	4:47 AM	8:28 PM
	JUNE 19	3:14 PM	4:18 AM	4:48 AM	8:29 PM
	JUNE 20	4:18 PM	4:33 AM	4:48 AM	8:29 PM
	JUNE 21	5:22 PM	4:48 AM	4:48 AM	8:29 PM
	JUNE 22	6:26 PM	5:03 AM	4:48 AM	8:29 PM
	JUNE 23	7:33 PM	5:20 AM	4:48 AM	8:29 PM
	JUNE 24	8:43 PM	5:38 AM	4:49 AM	8:29 PM
	JUNE 25	9:54 PM	6:01 AM	4:49 AM	8:29 PM
	JUNE 26	11:05 PM	6:31 AM	4:50 AM	8:29 PM
	JUNE 27	-	7:09 AM	4:50 AM	8:29 PM
	JUNE 28	12:11 AM	7:59 AM	4:50 AM	8:29 PM

APPENDIX B. LANDCOVER/HABITATS VISIBLE WITHIN 100 M FROM POINT.

MACRO-HABITAT	MICRO-HABITAT	DESCRIPTION
DEVELOPED (MIX OF IMPERVIOUS SURFACES AND MANAGED LAWN GRASSES)	COMMERCIAL-INDUSTRIAL (>80% IMPERVIOUS)	DEVELOPED AREAS WHERE PEOPLE RESIDE OR WORK IN HIGH NUMBER. EXAMPLES INCLUDE APARTMENT COMPLEXES, ROW HOUSES, COMMERCIAL-INDUSTRIAL AREAS, AND ASSOCIATED PARKING. IMPERVIOUS SURFACES ACCOUNT FOR MORE THAN 80% OF TOTAL COVER.
	HIGH INTENSITY (50-80% IMPERVIOUS)	INCLUDES HIGHLY DEVELOPED AREAS WITH A MIXTURE OF CONSTRUCTED MATERIALS AND VEGETATION. IMPERVIOUS SURFACES ACCOUNT FOR 50 TO 80 PERCENT OF TOTAL COVER.
	MEDIUM INTENSITY (20-50% IMPERVIOUS)	INCLUDES MODERATELY DEVELOPED AREAS WITH A MIXTURE OF CONSTRUCTED MATERIALS AND VEGETATION. IMPERVIOUS SURFACES ACCOUNT FOR 20 TO 50 PERCENT OF TOTAL COVER.
	LOW INTENSITY (<20% IMPERVIOUS)	INCLUDES SPARSELY DEVELOPED AREAS WITH A MIXTURE OF CONSTRUCTED MATERIALS AND VEGETATION. IMPERVIOUS SURFACES ACCOUNT FOR LESS THAN 20 PERCENT OF TOTAL COVER.
CULTIVATED LAND (ACTIVELY MANAGED LANDS FOR PRODUCTION OF CROPS, PASTURE, HAY)	CULTIVATED ROW CROPS	LAND USED FOR THE PRODUCTION OF CROPS, INCLUDING ANNUAL-CYCLE CROPS (CORN, POTATOES, SMALL GRAINS, OILSEED CROPS, VEGETABLES, FLOWERS, ETC.). PLANT COVER IS VARIABLE DEPENDING ON SEASON AND TYPE OF FARMING AND INCLUDES ALL LAND BEING ACTIVELY TILLED.
	PASTURE-HAY (ACTIVELY MANAGED)	THESE AGRICULTURE LANDS TYPICALLY HAVE PERENNIAL HERBACEOUS COVER (USUALLY IN RECOGNIZABLE FIELDS) USED FOR LIVESTOCK GRAZING OR THE PRODUCTION OF HAY. THERE ARE OBVIOUS SIGNS OF MANAGEMENT SUCH AS FENCING AND/OR HAYING THAT DISTINGUISH THEM FROM NATURAL GRASSLANDS.
	BLUEBERRY BARREN	COMPOSED OF AGRICULTURAL FIELDS DOMINATED BY THE PRODUCTION OF LOW-BUSH BLUEBERRIES. MULTIPLE STRUCTURAL FORMS INCLUDE: BURNED FIELD, PRUNED FIELD, EARLY SEASON WITH LEAVES, AND LATE SEASON WITH LEAVES AND FRUIT SET. THIS TYPE IS MOST COMMON IN EASTERN MAINE.
	ORCHARD, CHRISTMAS TREE PLANTATION	LAND USED FOR ORCHARDS, VINEYARDS, NURSERIES, AND CHRISTMAS TREE FARMS. PLANT COVER IS VARIABLE DEPENDING ON SEASON AND TYPE OF FARMING.
GRASSLAND/ LOW HERBS (GRASSES GENERALLY >80%, WITHOUT EVIDENCE OF RECENT PASTURE/ HAYING)	UNMANAGED UPLAND GRASSLAND	UPLAND AREAS WITH DENSE GRASSES (GRASSES >80% OF VEGETATION COVER) AND OCCASIONALLY SPARSE TREES OR SHRUBS. THESE AREAS ARE NOT SUBJECT TO INTENSIVE MANAGEMENT SUCH AS TILLING, BUT MIGHT BE USED FOR GRAZING OR HAY PRODUCTION BUT THERE ARE NO OBVIOUS OR RECENT SIGNS OF FENCING AND HAYING. CHARACTERISTIC LAND COVER FEATURES: PRAIRIES, DRY MEADOWS, FALLOW FIELDS, AND UNDEVELOPED LANDS WITH NATURALLY OCCURRING GRASSES.
	COASTAL GRASSLANDS/ DUNES	GRASSLANDS ALONG MARINE COAST OR SHORES OF LARGE LAKES (TREES AND SHRUBS SOMETIMES PRESENT BUT SUBORDINATE TO SHRUB/GRASS COVER), E.G., DUNES, SANDY AREAS WITH SPARSE VEGETATION AND SMALL PATCHES OF SHRUBS.
	ROCKY OUTCROP GRASSLAND/GLADE	UPLAND AREAS ASSOCIATED WITH ROCK OUTCROPS, LOW ELEVATION RIDGES AND SUMMITS WITH A MIXTURE OF GRASSES AND LOW HERBS.
UPLAND FOREST- DECIDUOUS (TREES USUALLY >5M TALL AND FOREST >75% DECIDUOUS)	OAK-PINE DOMINANT	OAK DOMINATED WITH SUBDOMINANT PITCH PINE, RED PINE, WHITE PINE, OR GRAY BIRCH, DENSE TO OPEN WOODLANDS WITH A LOW SHRUB OR GRASS LAYER, OR WITH SPARSE COVER ON DRY ROCKY HILLTOPS AND OUTCROPS. OVERALL TREES GREATER THAN 5M TALL AND GREATER THAN 75% DECIDUOUS.
	RED OAK- NORTHERN HARDWOODS DOMINANT	A CLOSED CANOPY FOREST OF LOW TO MODERATE MOISTURE IN WHICH A SIGNIFICANT COMPONENT OF RED OAK IS PRESENT ALONG WITH THE NORMAL SUITE OF NORTHERN HARDWOODS, PRIMARILY SUGAR MAPLE, BEECH, AND YELLOW BIRCH. RED MAPLE, HEMLOCK, AND WHITE PINE ARE COMMON ASSOCIATES. OVERALL TREES GREATER THAN 5M TALL AND GREATER THAN 75% DECIDUOUS
	BIRCH-BEECH-MAPLE DOMINANT	NORTHERN HARDWOODS SUCH AS SUGAR MAPLE, YELLOW BIRCH, AND BEECH ARE CHARACTERISTIC, EITHER FORMING A DECIDUOUS CANOPY OR MIXED WITH RED OAK OR HEMLOCK (OR IN SOME CASES WHITE PINE). OVERALL TREES GREATER THAN 5M TALL AND GREATER THAN 75% DECIDUOUS.
	TREES <5 M TALL, REGEN FROM CUT, BLOWDOWN, FIRE	USE FOR AN EVEN-AGED REGENERATING FOREST, RECOVERING FROM PREVIOUS DISTURBANCE SUCH AS A CUT, SIGNIFICANT BLOWDOWN, FIRE, ETC. OVERALL TREES LESS THAN 5 M TALL AND REGENERATING TREES GREATER THAN 75% DECIDUOUS.
UPLAND FOREST- EVERGREEN (TREES USUALLY >5M TALL AND FOREST >75% EVERGREEN)	PINE-OAK DOMINANT	PITCH PINE, RED PINE, OR WHITE PINE DOMINATED WITH SUBDOMINANT OAK OR GRAY BIRCH, DENSE TO OPEN WOODLANDS WITH A LOW SHRUB OR GRASS LAYER, OR WITH SPARSE COVER ON DRY ROCKY HILLTOPS AND OUTCROPS. OVERALL TREES GREATER THAN 5M TALL AND GREATER THAN 75% EVERGREEN.
	PINE-HEMLOCK DOMINANT WITH RED OAK	WHITE PINE, HEMLOCK ARE TYPICAL CANOPY DOMINANTS. RED MAPLE AND RED OAK CAN BE SUBDOMINANT. OVERALL TREES GREATER THAN 5M TALL AND GREATER THAN 75% EVERGREEN.
	MONTANE (>2,000 FEET) SPRUCE-FIR DOMINANT)	A HIGH ELEVATION (>2,000 FEET) CONIFER FOREST DOMINATED BY RED SPRUCE AND BALSAM FIR. HEARTLEAVED BIRCH IS A CHARACTERISTIC TREE ALONG WITH YELLOW BIRCH, WHITE BIRCH, MOUNTAIN MAPLE, STRIPED MAPLE, MOUNTAINS ASH, AND OCCASIONALLY BLACK SPRUCE AT UPPER PATCH EDGES. DENSE BEDS OF SPHAGNUM MOSS COVER MUCH OF THE FOREST FLOOR, AND LICHENS HANG FROM THE TREES.
	LOW-ELEVATION (<2,000 FEET) SPRUCE-FIR DOMINANT	A LOW ELEVATION (<2,000 FEET) CONIFER FOREST DOMINATED BY RED SPRUCE AND BALSAM FIR. BLACK AND WHITE SPRUCE ARE SOMETIMES PRESENT, ALONG WITH YELLOW BIRCH, PAPER BIRCH, BEECH, AND RED OR SUGAR MAPLE, AND NORTHERN WHITE CEDAR IN MOIST LOCATIONS. BRYOPHYTES ARE DOMINANT IN A DENSE HERB LAYER. IN SUCCESSIONAL PATCHES, PAPER BIRCH, ASPEN, AND LARCH ARE MIXED IN WITH THE SPRUCE AND FIR.
	SPRUCE FLAT AND JACK PINE-SPRUCE DOMINANT	SOILS ARE NUTRIENT-POOR AND LOAMY TO SANDY, VARYING FROM THIN SOIL OVER BEDROCK TO DEEPER SOILS. JACK PINE OR BLACK SPRUCE IS THE CHARACTERISTIC OVER-STORY TREE, OCCURRING WITH OTHER SPRUCE SPECIES AND/OR RED PINE. WHITE BIRCH AND ASPEN MAY ALSO BE PRESENT. DWARF HEATH SHRUBS CAN BE EXTENSIVE. OVERALL TREES GREATER THAN 5M TALL AND GREATER THAN 75% EVERGREEN.
	TREES <5 M TALL, REGEN FROM CUT, BLOWDOWN, FIRE	USE FOR AN EVEN-AGED REGENERATING FOREST, RECOVERING FROM PREVIOUS DISTURBANCE SUCH AS A CUT, SIGNIFICANT BLOWDOWN, FIRE, ETC. OVERALL TREES LESS THAN 5 M TALL AND REGENERATING TREES GREATER THAN 75% EVERGREEN.

UPLAND FOREST-MIXED (TREES USUALLY >5M TALL AND FOREST <75% DECIDUOUS OR EVERGREEN)	OAK/PINE	MIX OF OAK, PITCH PINE, RED PINE, WHITE PINE, OR GRAY BIRCH, DENSE TO OPEN WOODLANDS WITH A LOW SHRUB OR GRASS LAYER, OR WITH SPARSE COVER ON DRY ROCKY HILLTOPS AND OUTCROPS. OVERALL TREES GREATER THAN 5M TALL AND LESS THAN 75% DECIDUOUS AND LESS THAN 75% EVERGREEN.
	BIRCH-BEECH-MAPLE/PINE- HEMLOCK	NORTHERN HARDWOODS SUCH AS SUGAR MAPLE, YELLOW BIRCH, AND BEECH ARE CHARACTERISTIC, EITHER FORMING A DECIDUOUS CANOPY OR MIXED WITH RED OAK OR HEMLOCK (OR IN SOME CASES WHITE PINE). OVERALL TREES GREATER THAN 5M TALL AND LESS THAN 75% DECIDUOUS AND LESS THAN 75% EVERGREEN.
	PINE-HEMLOCK/ HARDWOODS	MIX OF WHITE PINE, HEMLOCK RED MAPLE, AND RED OAK. OVERALL TREES GREATER THAN 5M TALL AND LESS THAN 75% DECIDUOUS AND LESS THAN 75% EVERGREEN.
	SPRUCE-FIR/HARDWOODS	FORESTS WITH A MIX OF RED SPRUCE, BALSAM FIR, BLACK AND WHITE SPRUCE, YELLOW BIRCH, PAPER BIRCH, BEECH, AND RED OR SUGAR MAPLE. THE SOILS ARE USUALLY ROCKY, MOSTLY WELL- TO MODERATELY WELLDRAINED BUT WITH SOME SOMEWHAT POORLY DRAINED PATCHES AT THE SLOPE BOTTOMS. OVERALL TREES GREATER THAN 5M TALL AND LESS THAN 75% DECIDUOUS AND LESS THAN 75% EVERGREEN.
	TREES <5 M TALL, REGEN FROM CUT, BLOWDOWN, FIRE	USE FOR AN EVEN-AGED REGENERATING FOREST, RECOVERING FROM PREVIOUS DISTURBANCE SUCH AS A CUT, SIGNIFICANT BLOWDOWN, FIRE, ETC. OVERALL TREES LESS THAN 5 M TALL AND REGENERATING TREES LESS THAN 75% DECIDUOUS AND LESS THAN 75% EVERGREEN.
UPLAND SCRUB/ SHRUB (SHRUBS AND EARLY SUCCESSIONAL OR ENVIRONMENTALLY STUNTED TREES <5M TALL)	OLD FIELD (FORMERLY CLEARED, EARLY SUCCESSIONAL)	HERB-SHRUB VEGETATION RESULTING FROM SUCCESSION FOLLOWING VIRTUALLY COMPLETE REMOVAL OF NATIVE WOODY COVER OF AN AREA, PRIMARILY ON LANDS CLEARED FOR AGRICULTURE OR PASTURE. GRASSES MINOR COMPONENT OF VEGETATION COVER. LANDS MAY HAVE BEEN CLEARED DECADES AGO OR MORE RECENTLY. SHRUBS AND EARLY SUCCESSIONAL OR ENVIRONMENTALLY STUNTED TREES <5M TALL.
	RIVER & LAKESHORE SHRUBLAND	NON-WETLAND OPEN SHORES BORDERING LAKES, RIVERS, AND STREAMS; SUBSTRATE ROCKY OR SANDY, VEGETATION SHRUB DOMINATED. SHRUBS AND EARLY SUCCESSIONAL OR ENVIRONMENTALLY STUNTED TREES <5M TALL.
	POWERLINE RIGHT-OF-WAY	SHRUB-DOMINATED, SOMETIMES WITH AREAS OF HERB-DOMINATED VEGETATION, MAINTAINED UNDER POWERLINE RIGHTS-OF-WAY. SHRUBS AND EARLY SUCCESSIONAL OR ENVIRONMENTALLY STUNTED TREES <5M TALL.
	INTRODUCED SHRUBS (HONEYSUCKLE, BARBERRY)	THESE SHRUBLANDS ARE DOMINATED BY AGGRESSIVE EXOTIC SPECIES INCLUDING HONEYSUCKLES, MULTIFLORA ROSE, BARBERRY, PRIVET, AND OTHERS. THEY ARE PRIMARILY UPLAND BUT CAN OCCUR IN SEASONALLY WET SITUATIONS, AND TYPICALLY DEVELOP ON DISTURBED FORMER FIELDS WHERE SOIL STRUCTURE AND/OR CHEMISTRY HAVE BEEN ALTERED. SHRUBS AND EARLY SUCCESSIONAL OR ENVIRONMENTALLY STUNTED TREES <5M TALL.
	OUTCROP & SUMMIT SHRUB	UPLAND AREAS WITH A MIXTURE OF SHRUBS, HERBS, AND SOMETIMES STUNTED TREES, ASSOCIATED WITH ROCK OUTCROPS AND SUMMITS. SHRUBS AND EARLY SUCCESSIONAL OR ENVIRONMENTALLY STUNTED TREES <5M TALL.
WETLAND-FORESTED (WETLANDS WITHOUT TREES OR TREES >5M TALL AND CANOPY COVER >20%)	FLOODPLAIN HARDWOODS	FLOODPLAINS OF RIVERS AND STREAMS WHERE THE STREAM GRADIENT IS LOW. ASSOCIATED VEGETATION INCLUDES SILVER MAPLE, GREEN ASH, AMERICAN ELM, RED MAPLE, SUGAR MAPLE, BALSAM POPLAR, RED OAK, AND MUSCLEWOOD. THE HERB LAYER INCLUDES ABUNDANT SPRING EPHEMERALS, OFTEN GIVING WAY TO FERN DOMINANCE BY MID-SUMMER. WETLANDS WITH TREES >5M TALL AND CANOPY COVER >20%.
	RED MAPLE, SPRUCE, FIR, ASH SWAMP	WOODED, NON-FLOODPLAIN WETLANDS, WET OR SATURATED FOR THE GROWING SEASON, USUALLY DOMINATED BY RED MAPLE, SPRUCE, FIR, AND ASH. WETLANDS WITH TREES >5M TALL AND CANOPY COVER >20%.
	CEDAR SWAMP	WOODED WETLANDS, CHARACTERIZED BY CEDAR OR PITCH PINE. WETLANDS WITH TREES >5M TALL AND CANOPY COVER >20%.
WETLAND- NONFORESTED (WETLANDS WITH TREES <5M TALL AND CANOPY COVER <20%)	EMERGENT MARSH (FRESHWATER)	FRESHWATER MARSHES WITH MORE-OR-LESS PERMANENT WATER AND WITH NON-PERSISTENT VEGETATION. WETLANDS WITHOUT TREES OR TREES <5M TALL AND CANOPY COVER <20%.
	MODIFIED MARSH (BEAVER/HUMAN IMPOUNDMENTS)	FRESHWATER WETLANDS DOMINATED BY NON-NATIVE SPECIES, AND MARSHES CREATED BY HUMAN-MADE OR BEAVER-MADE IMPOUNDMENTS IN AREAS THAT WOULD NOT OTHERWISE BE MARSHES. WETLANDS WITHOUT TREES OR TREES <5M TALL AND CANOPY COVER <20%.
	WET MEADOW (FRESHWATER)	FRESHWATER MARSHES AND WET MEADOWS WITH PERSISTENT VEGETATION OF SHRUBS, SEDGES, AND WETLAND FORBS. WETLANDS WITHOUT TREES OR TREES <5M TALL AND CANOPY COVER <20%.
	PEATLAND (FRESHWATER)	BOGS AND FENS, THE SUBSTRATE DOMINATED BY SPHAGNUM PEAT, USUALLY WITHOUT TREES OR WITH FEW TREES. ANY WOODY VEGETATION LESS THAN 5 METERS IN HEIGHT AND TREE CANOPY COVERAGE IS LESS THAN 20 PERCENT.
	COASTAL SALT MARSH (SALTWATER OR BRACKISH)	SALT MARSHES ALONG IMMEDIATE OCEAN SHORE AND NEAR ESTUARY MOUTHS. THESE MARSHES ARE DOMINATED BY GRASSES WITH PATCHY HERBS. ANY WOODY VEGETATION LESS THAN 5 METERS IN HEIGHT AND TREE CANOPY COVERAGE IS LESS THAN 20 PERCENT.
BARE LAND (BARE GROUND WITH VEGETATION <10% GROUND COVER)	CLIFF & TALUS	VERTICAL OR NEAR-VERTICAL CLIFFS AND THE TALUS SLOPES ASSOCIATED WITH THEM (AND THE OCCASIONAL TALUS AREAS DEVELOPING WITHOUT ADJACENT CLIFFS). BARE GROUND WITH VEGETATION <10% GROUND COVER.
	EXPOSED ROCK OUTCROPS/ LOW ELEVATION SUMMITS	UPLAND AREAS WITH A MIXTURE OF SPARSE VEGETATION, ASSOCIATED WITH ROCK OUTCROPS AND SUMMITS. BARE GROUND WITH VEGETATION <10% GROUND COVER.
	GRAVEL PITS, QUARRIES	SURFACE MINING OPERATIONS FOR VARIOUS MATERIALS: SAND, GRAVEL, ROCK, ETC. BARE GROUND WITH VEGETATION <10% GROUND COVER.
	ROCKY COAST	SPARSELY VEGETATED AND MARITIME-INFLUENCED ROCKY AREAS ALONG THE COAST. BARE GROUND WITH VEGETATION <10% GROUND COVER.
OPEN WATER (>75% WATER)	OPEN WATER	WATER WITH GREATER THAN 75% COVER OVER THE AREA.
ALPINE/SUBALPINE (NEAR OR ABOVE TREELINE)	KRUMMHOLZ FOREST	DWARF, TWISTED, STUNTED SPRUCE AND FIR TREES NEAR TREELINE, MOSTLY ABOVE 3,000 FEET IN ELEVATION (SLIGHTLY LOWER NEAR THE EXPOSED COASTAL MOUNTAINS).
	ABOVE TREELINE (TUNDRA, DWARF SHRUBS, VEG)	INCLUDES VEGETATION ABOVE TREELINE ON MOUNTAINS. MOST OF THE COVER IS DWARF-SHRUBLAND, LICHEN, OR SPARSE VEGETATION; ISLANDS OF TALLER SHRUBS MAY OCCUR IN PROTECTED SPOTS. THE DOMINANT PLANTS ARE DWARF HEATHS (BILBERRY IS DIAGNOSTIC AND OFTEN DOMINANT) AND DIAPENSIA. THIS SYSTEM INCLUDES WETLAND DEPRESSIONS, SUCH AS SMALL ALPINE BOGS, WITHIN THE SURROUNDING UPLAND MATRIX.

SURVEY ROUTE DESCRIPTION FORM

Route: _____ Year: _____

This form has three purposes:

- Provide specific information on the observer assigned to a specific nightjar route.
- Provide a space for where observers can record details about each point location during a non-survey visit to the route.
- Allow for recording of habitat information at each stop along a route.

Part 1: Observer Information

	Observer
Name	
Address	
City, State, Zip	
Phone Number	
Email Address	

Part 2 and 3: Route Information

Point	Location Description (within 100 meters)	# buildings visible	Dominant habitat
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
(11)			
(12)			

Habitat Codes:

- | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| A. Developed | F. Upland Forest - Mixed | K. Open water |
| B. Cultivated Land | G. Upland Scrub/shrub | L. Alpine/subalpine |
| C. Grassland/low herbs | H. Wetland - Forest | |
| D. Upland Forest - Deciduous | I. Wetland - Non-forested | |
| E. Upland Forest - Evergreen | J. Bare Land | |

MAINE NIGHTJAR SURVEY FORM

Route: _____

Observer:

Date: _____

Start time: _____ End time: _____

[illegible][illegible]

Comments:

☐ Check here if observations have been uploaded to eBird

Return data sheets to:
Logan Parker, Project Coordinator
272 Chisholm Pond Road
Palermo, ME 04354
logan@hereinthewild.com

Noise codes:

- None
1 Slight
2 Moderate
3 Excessive

Sky codes:

- 0 Clear
- 1 Partly Cloudy
- 2 Cloudy
- 3 Fog
- 4 Drizzle
- 5 Snow
- 6 Rain showers

Wind codes:

- 0 Calm (<1 mph)
- 1 Light air (1-3 mph)
- 2 Light breeze (4-7 mph)
- 3 Gentle breeze (8-13 mph)
- 4 Moderate breeze (14-18 mph)
- 5 Fresh breeze (19-24 mph)

[illegible]

Maine Nightjar Monitoring Project - Maine Natural History Observatory