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## Summary of the draft Recovery Strategy for the **COMMON NIGHTHAWK IN CANADA**

As part of its commitment to the protection of species at risk, the Government of Canada proclaimed the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) in 2003. A recovery strategy must be developed for each listed Extirpated, Endangered, and Threatened species to reduce known threats and to help species at risk recover.

### Status

The Common Nighthawk is listed as Threatened under the *Species at Risk Act*, due to significant long- and short-term declines observed in portions of its range.

### Description and Distribution

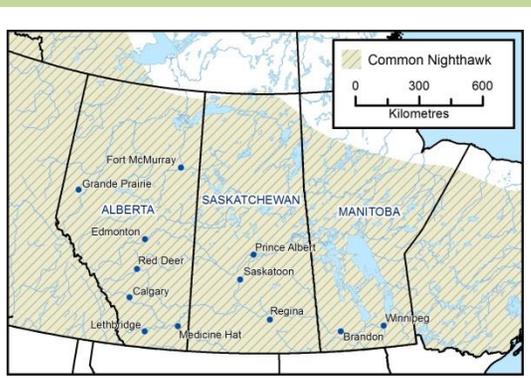
The Common Nighthawk is a medium-sized insect-eating bird. It is found in many types of open land or forest clearings, and on gravel roofs. It breeds in every province and territory of Canada except Nunavut, and across the continental U.S. and parts of Mexico. Approximately 37% of the species' breeding range is found in Canada, and it winters in South America. It has one of the longest migration routes of all North American birds.



Global range of Common Nighthawk showing breeding, migrating, and wintering distribution (adapted from BirdLife International and NatureServe (2014), using data from Haché *et al.* (2014) and eBird (2014)).



Photo ©: Phillip Simmons



Range of Common Nighthawk in Prairie Provinces



## Threats

- Natural system modifications (e.g. reduced insect prey; fire suppression)
- Habitat loss and degradation
- Climate change and severe weather
- Accidental mortality
- Pollution
- Problematic native species and invasive non-native species (e.g. increased predation; competition for nesting sites)

## The Recovery Strategy

### Short-term Population Objectives:

- Ensure the population does not decrease by more than 10% over the next 10 years, and
- Stop national population decline by 2025

### Long-term Population Objective:

- After 2025, ensure a positive 10-year population trend

### Distribution Objective:

- Maintain the current geographic distribution of the Common Nighthawk in Canada

To achieve these objectives, four broad strategies have been identified:

- Habitat and Species Protection and Management
- Monitoring and Research
- Law and Policy
- Education and Awareness, Stewardship, and Partnerships

## What will be done?

The Recovery Strategy proposes a number of approaches to implement the broad strategies above. The high priority approaches include:

- Protect important habitat in breeding and nonbreeding areas.
- Conduct research and monitoring programs to improve our understanding of the species, its habitats, migration patterns, threats, and population trends.
- Promote broad cooperation on breeding and wintering ranges to fill knowledge gaps and mitigate threats.
- Promote compliance with applicable laws, policies and beneficial management practices.

## Critical Habitat

At this time, the available information is not adequate to identify critical habitat for the Common Nighthawk. A Schedule of Studies is proposed to obtain the information needed for the identification of critical habitat.

For more information or a copy of the full recovery strategy, please contact:

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You can also visit the following website for more information:  
SARA Public Registry ([www.sararegistry.gc.ca](http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca))

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