

Hi everyone,

We don't have an event this month. Please have a safe and enjoyable Fourth of July!

I am delighted when folks let me know what they're seeing around town. My co-workers are great and often tell me the neat things they're seeing. Yesterday, I received a call about birds nesting on the rooftop of our 5800 building on Shier-Rings Road. At first, my co-worker thought it was falcon. Well, falcons are a cliff dwelling bird and would be out of place in Dublin. We do have nesting falcons around the state of Ohio, but they're usually near large cities with tall buildings. I suggested that perhaps the bird was a Cooper's Hawk. They look like falcons and are quite common in Dublin. Nope, not a Cooper's Hawk. The description came back as something that looked like an owl, but also a hawk. Hmmm, what would it be?

I had to see for myself. I put my tennis shoes on and climbed the ladder to the rooftop. This sounds like an easy task, but I'm really afraid of heights! We walked the long, hot black roof of the building and finally spotted the trio. Three Common Night Hawks, one adult and two young. The mother was resting with her eyes shut and two little ones pressed up against her.

Common Night Hawks are a bit larger than a Robin, but smaller than a pigeon. They're related to Whippoorwills and their markings remind me of fall leaves scattered on the ground. This is where they'd typically nest. However, they've adapted to flat rooftops, particularly graveled rooftops. They generally lay two eggs on the bare ground without nesting materials. Their tremendous camouflage keeps them hidden.

My granny used to call Night Hawks 'crazy birds' for their spring time mating ritual. The males fly high and then do a kind of free fall back to the ground. When they near the ground they spread their wings, which create a kind of popping noise.

They are incredible flyers and are usually seen at dawn and dusk zipping around catching insects. Common here in central Ohio, you've probably noticed them above the mall or car lots. The lights attract insects and insects attract the birds. They have a loud 'breent' kind of call. Other names for this neat bird re bullbats (for their bat-like flying) and mosquito hawk.

Keep an eye to the evening sky to see this acrobatic bird!

Happy Fourth,

Mime