

Todd Penney

From: Eric Trott
Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 10:07 AM
To: Todd Penney
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Broad Winged Hawk

Hey – Julie Blanchard asked that I forward the email below to the IWA as an FYI. Don't think there is anything that can be done from a Wetlands perspective – pretty sad and scary event. Thanks!

Eric M. Trott

Coventry Director of Planning and Development
(860) 742-4062

From: John Elsesser <jelsesser@coventryct.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 9:01 AM
To: Eric Trott <etrott@coventryct.org>; Mark Palmer <mpalmer@coventryct.org>; Amanda Backhaus <abackhaus@coventryct.org>
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Broad Winged Hawk

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Julie Blanchard <jblanchard@coventryct.org>
Date: June 24, 2020 at 8:56:36 AM EDT
To: John Chipman <jchipman@coventryct.org>, John Elsesser <jelsesser@coventryct.org>, Laura Stone <LStone@coventryct.org>
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Broad Winged Hawk

Dear John and John:

Please read the below email and then share it with our Inland Wetlands Commission members and Conservation Commission members.

Please let me know if there is something else that can be done.

Thank you.

Julie Blanchard

From: Candy Wilson <cwilsonch@att.net>
Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 8:24 AM
To: Julie Blanchard; MBriggs@coventryct.org; PLaramee@coventryct.org; LMathieu@coventryct.org; SNorman@coventryct.org; TWoolf@coventryct.org; SCChoate@coventryct.org; MPowers@coventryct.org; LLowe@coventryct.org; AHall@coventryct.org; PManzone@coventryct.org; VMessino@coventryct.org; CBrown@coventryct.org; BCoss@coventryct.org; RProctor@coventryct.org
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Broad Winged Hawk

Dear Commission Members,

It is with a very heavy heart I write to notify you that the pair of nesting Broad Wing Hawks and their 3 offspring this year are in grave peril. They are now beyond the Endangered Species of "Special Concern not only to DEEP but to me as a direct result of illegal human actions this past weekend.

On Friday June 19, the illegal use of constant profession grade fireworks at multiple residence surrounding my property put them in grave distress and danger.

On Saturday the stress calls from the nestlings were so constant I investigated only to find that their nest was gone from where it has been located for some 20+ years. I was able to locate the female and 3 offspring, observing them struggling to stay on branches in trees near where the nest had been located. They were able to be fed by both parents which I took as a good sign for their survival. These offspring are far too young to be forced out of the nest as they typically do not fledge for until early late July early August.

I thought that fortunately the pair had mated much earlier this season than past years, again, I took it as a good sign for a chance for their survival.

Never did I expect what happened shortly after 9:00 pm on Saturday night!!!

There was a constant sudden barrage of semi automatic gunfire so close to our house I could hear bullets wheezing by my window as they were slicing through the leaves.

The resident at 1247 North River Road had come out and unloaded multiple loads of ammunition to the point I was screaming out my window to stop shooting. My husband was out in the yard by our pool at the time.

Little did I realize then that the Hawks were the actual intended targets until daylight when I saw that my hickory nut tree across from their nest had been shot up riddling the lawn with bullet holes leaves 20 feet out my back door.

The male has suffered severe physical harm and damage to both his wings!

This action caused the disbanding of the family entirely of 5 Broad Winged Hawks. Their survival is a daily struggle requiring constant monitoring by me.

The stress and fear that someone would actually shoot in the direction of my husband and home is terrifying. It has left me shaking for days now! We no longer feel safe on our property or in our home!!

I have notified CT State Police, CT DEEP, A.T. F., US Fish and Wildlife. I have a licensed trapper, 2 Raptor Rehabilitators on stand by for search and rescue if the show any further signs of distress.

This upcoming 4 of July weekend will again be a constant barrage of professional grade fireworks surrounding my neighborhood will put them in further jeopardy!!!!

I fear that their fate has been sealed by this horrific incident.

Sincerely,

Candy A. Wilson CH