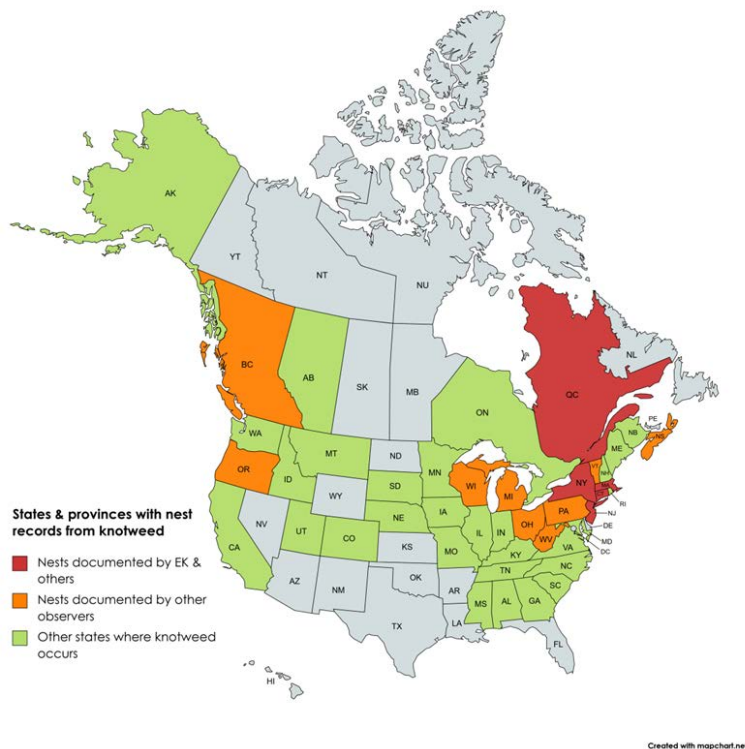


Seeking bird nests in knotweed

Knotweed (Japanese knotweed, giant knotweed, Bohemian knotweed) is a non-native, shrub-like, pest plant that is widely distributed across the U.S. and southern Canada, and growing in large patches in some areas.

I have documented 50 bird nests in knotweed in the northeastern states, and other observers have documented knotweed nests in those states and several other states and provinces. The map shows states and provinces with nests (red and orange), and states where knotweed occurs but nests have not been documented. Many knotweed occurrences are shown here <https://www.eddmaps.org/distribution/viewmap.cfm?sub=19655> and there are many occurrences that have not been mapped.



Nests have been found in knotweed stands of all sizes, down to only a square meter. Nests are commonly about 1.5 meters above the ground in knotweed 2-3 m tall; however, nests can be higher or lower, even on the ground. Nests are usually easy to see in winter; the photos here show a winter knotweed stand and a nest. In the Hudson Valley of New York I can survey half a dozen knotweed stands and find a nest.

If you find a nest in knotweed, please take photographs of the stand showing the nest, and closeups of the nest from various angles. I hope to receive your observations by the end of January. If you're interested in collecting more data about a nest let me know and I'll send the data sheet I use. My main concern is to obtain nest records from additional states and provinces, as I believe the phenomenon is very widespread. My two aims are to better understand the wildlife using non-native plants, and to alert managers to bird nesting



in knotweed so they can either treat (cut, spray, etc.) outside the bird breeding season, or check carefully for nests prior to treatment. I'm coauthoring a paper about bird nests in knotweed.

Thank you for considering my request for assistance!

Stay well,
Erik

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