

Louisiana Ornithological Society's

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

Rare Bird Report Form

This form is intended as a convenience in reporting observations of species on the Louisiana Bird Records Committee (LBRC) Review List. The LBRC recommends the use of this form or a similar format when submitting records for review (to ensure that all information involving an observation is accounted for). Attach additional pages as necessary. Please print or type. Attach fieldnotes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for obscurely marked species. When completed, mail to Secretary, Louisiana Bird Records Committee, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216.

- 1. English and Scientific names: Lesser Nighthawk, *Chordeiles acutipennis*
- 2. Number of individuals, age, sex, general plumage (e. g., "2 adult males in alternate <breeding> plumage"): one adult male (see below)
- 3. Locality: LOUISIANA; Gulf of Mexico
Texaco Oil Platform 189 A, Garden Banks, ca. 150 miles S of town of Cameron
(parish)
(specific locality)
- 4. Date(s) when observed: 8 April 1998 (see below)
- 5. Time(s) of day when observed: 1035 - 1042 (7 min)
- 6. Reporting observer and address:
Laurence C. Binford
Lsumns
- 7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s): none
- 8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): none
- 9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): good, light to right most of time (bird flying)
- 10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): 10 x 4 Zeiss binocular, excellent
- 11. Distance to bird(s): as close as ²⁰ ft.
- 12. Duration of observation: 7 min. Bird flying all the time.

Bird flying all around oil platform, frequently over main deck (where I was) maneuvering so all angles of bird visible from above and below. Apparently, wanted to land, but did not. Not feeding. Occasionally flew behind structures, only to reappear quickly.

13. Habitat: to reappear quickly.

14. Behavior of bird/circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding the observation): see above

15. Description (include only what was actually seen, not what "should" have been seen; if possible, give details on total length/relative size compared to other familiar species, body bulk, shape, proportions, bill, eye, leg, and plumage characteristics. Stress features that separate it from similar species. Attach additional pages as necessary):
Flight more direct, wing beat shallower, less languid ^{or bouyant} than Common Nighthawk (CN). Above quite brownish, less grayish or blackish than races of CN. Wings seemed short (compared to my memory of CN), with white bar closer to tip than CN; tip more rounded than CN - (at one point could see 4 primary tips when wing spread). Once got clear look at a row of orangish-buff spots, large, perhaps 6, at base of primaries (could have been more rows but view quick and I focused on one row) cutting across wing. Tail with numerous dark/light bars, one wider pure white bar (from above, ^{when spread;} central rectrices not included) (= ad. ♂). Throat white. White bar across wing seemed (compared to my memory) closer to tip than CN. Entire abdomen barred blackish or brownish with paler bars orangish-buff. This quite distinct. Breast darkish, no detail noted. Wing linings (lesser underwing coverts) like abdomen, blackish + orangish-buff bars (tho all bars narrower). I did not consciously see under tail coverts, but had they been whitish (like some CN) I would have noticed, so I think they were buffy. Overall size I felt was small (but no comparison except memory of CN)

16. Voice: none

17. Similar species (and how are they eliminated by your description?): CN eliminated by buff spots on primary base, brown upperparts, orangish-buff belly bars and underwing coverts, ^{small} size, rounded wing, direct wing beat, white wing patch near tip. Antellean

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): none

19. Previous experience with this species: Some in CA, LA; many (collected) in Mexico eliminated by my bird's buff spots on primaries, brown upperparts, orange-buff barred underwing coverts, perhaps wing white close to tip.

20. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification):
a. at time of observation: none

b. after observation: NBS Field guide, Petron, specimens (LSUMNS)

21. This description is written from: notes made during the observation; notes made after the observation (date: 11 Apr); memory. after specimens seen (13 Apr)

22. Are you positive of your identification (if not, then explain?): yes

23. Signature of reporter: J. C. Binford 13 Apr. 1998

Note: 2 other birds seen, one on 8 April, a flyby, but wing roundness ^(date), white wing crescent close to tip, orange-buff underpart bars, white throat + tail bar, direct flight seen well. Also, another bird on 11 April seen for several minutes, flying around main deck, all angles of view, all markers mentioned for bird described above except underwing coverts not noted, and buff primary spots not seen. I believe both these birds were Lessers. ~~Get~~ The second bird on 8 Apr (the flyby) went NE. out of sight.
~~Get~~ All 3 birds ad ♂.