

## BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

## REPORT FORM

This form is intended as a convenience in reporting observations of unusual birds. It may be used flexibly and need not be used at all. Leave blank any details not observed. Attach additional sheets if necessary. Please print or type. Attach drawings, photographs, etc.; include all photos if an obscurely marked species. When completed, mail to the Secretary of the LOS Bird Records Committee.

1. Common and scientific name: Lesser Nighthawk (*Chordeiles acutipennis*)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g. 2ad. in breeding plumage): 1-male
3. Locality: Louisiana: offshore Vermilion Parish: 28° 30' 45" N, 92° 27' 04" W  
Vermilion block 265 Exxon platform VER-265-A
4. Date(s) when seen: 31 March 1999
5. Times of day when seen: 08:29-16:03 off and on
6. Reporting observer and address:  
B. Mac Myers III, 5660 ADA PL-REAR APT., NEW ORLEANS, LA 70124
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird:  
none
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird:  
none
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): various - but frequently excellent
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition):  
10X40 Zeiss and 22X60 Bushnell - excellent and very good
11. Distance to bird: as close as 30 feet
12. Duration of observation: probably a total of 25-30 minutes
13. Habitat (general and specific):  
Oil platform in 165 ft. of water in Gulf of Mexico. The bird flew around the platform many times, also perched on handrail, on deck and probably on a pile of pipe.
14. Behavior (flying, feeding, resting, etc.; include and stress any habits used in identification): It flew around the platforms many times - sometimes in response to disturbance/flushing, but sometimes it may have been foraging. It had typical Lesser Nighthawk flight - erratic, fluttery wingbeats which were shallower than typical Common.
15. Description (Include only what was actually seen, not what "should" have been seen. Include if possible: total length; body bulk; shape, bill, eye, and leg characteristics; color and pattern of plumage, etc. Stress field marks):  
Typical nighthawk - that is, long rather pointed wings with white patches, long squared off tail, plumage variegated grays and browns, with <sup>black</sup> some white under the throat and fairly extensive white in tail.

The wingtips were less pointed than Common, and on close examination it could be seen that the primary tips were worn. The white wing patches were quite far out toward the tip. At fairly close range in flight from underneath, buffy spotting in the inner primaries and secondaries toward rear was quite evident. Unfortunately, when the bird was perched, it was ruffled up and holding its wings oddly and I could not see (or photograph) this feature.

16. Voice: not heard

17. Similar species (include how they are eliminated by your observations):

The spotting in the inner primaries and secondaries. This was a real "good" individual - distinctly less pointed wings, distinctly more distal white wing patches than Common. Also, according to Pyle (1997), the worn primaries would be expected in spring in Lesser but not in Common.

18. Photographs (Was it photographed? By whom? Attached?):

Yes, but not processed at time of writing this.

19. Previous experience with this species: several in LA, dozens in the Southwest.

20. Aids: List <sup>\*</sup> books, illustrations, birders, etc. used in identification

a) at time of observation; none

b) after observation: Pyle (1997) I.D. Guide to N. Am. Birds

21. This description written from: X notes made during observation; \_\_\_\_\_ notes made after observation; \_\_\_\_\_ memory.

22. Are you positive of your identification? YES. If not, explain:

23. Signature of reporter: B. Mac. Myers III

24. Date and time of writing this account:

3 April 1999 5 P.M.







