

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

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 assure that all pertinent information is accounted for. Attach additional pages or files as necessary. Please print or type for hard copy. For electronic copy, be sure to save this file to your computer before entering text. Attach field notes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for more obscurely marked species. When completed (if hard copy), mail to Secretary, Louisiana Bird Records Committee, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216, or e-mail electronic copy as an attachment to Paul Edward Conover at <zoiseaux@lusfiber.net> .

1. English and Scientific names: Lesser Nighthawk (*Chordeiles acutipennis*)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
2 individuals, of which 1 was female
3. Parish: Cameron
Specific Locality: Peveto Woods, BRAS Sanctuary
4. Date(s) when observed: 5/06/2017 (one bird), 5/07/2017 (two birds)
5. Time(s) of day when observed: 6:09 a.m. – ca.8:00 p.m.
6. Reporting observer and address: Paul E. Conover, Lafayette, LA 70506
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): Many, including our group (Mark Meunier, David Muth, Mac Myers, Dave Patton, Dan Purrington, Phillip Wallace) and other birders present on 5/6.
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): This bird had been present since at least 5/4/17; judging from photos, I believe the first report of this individual was by Jody Shugart.
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light):
From morning twilight to evening twilight with sunny days and good light angles throughout the day.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Zeiss 10s, Nikon Fieldscope 20-60x, Samsung S4 Galaxy cellphone, Nikon D3300 w/200 mm lens. All in reasonable condition.
11. Distance to bird(s): 25 feet
12. Duration of observation: I spent large amounts of time throughout the two days watching the perched bird. I'm sure the time spent was between 1 and 2 hours.
13. Habitat: Coastal chenier
14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Knowing that nighthawks had been present for at least a week, I went out in the morning twilight to try to get a glimpse of a Lesser returning from nocturnal foraging. On 5/6 one came in at 6:09 and flew directly, gliding almost, to a spot near the waterhole. Later in the morning, I checked likely perches and located it, probably where it had been reported for

several days. The bird rested at this spot all day with only a few short perch changes during that time span. On 5/7, two Lessers came in. One went directly to the known perch spot. The other tried to land in a live oak about 25 feet up, but seemed unable to get while fluttering in place, and went back into flight. The latter bird was not discovered during the day.

15. Description:

On May 6, 1 individual was seen in flight, and later located perched. On May 7, 2 individuals were seen in flight, and 1, the same bird was found perched as on May 6.

On the morning of the 7th, when two birds were seen, one landed quickly while the second searched for a perch, allowing photos to be taken.

In flight, the birds appeared to have rounded wings, held somewhat stiffly, as they more or less glided on a direct line into the woods. The overall impression to me was more of a small raptor-like build than the shape of a Common Nighthawk. The flight was less jerky than Common Nighthawk, even when one bird was making circuits looking for a perch.



May 6th. This bird landed and was located shortly afterward.





May 7th. This bird was not located on a perch during the day. There appears to be a small pale patch on the wing.

Perched bird: Buffy-brown nighthawk with whitish and buffy wingbars, buffy spots on primaries, and no white subterminal band on tail.

Overall, a medium to pale brown nightjar camouflaged with gray markings and thus resembling lichen covered bark. White “nighthawk mark” on bend of wing. Wings with pale tips on 1 row of lesser coverts, on median coverts, and while less conspicuous in this individual than other Lessers, with buff tips to greater secondary coverts as well. Scapulars with row of half buff and half black feathers, above row of wispy gray feathers. Primaries with numerous small buffy spots proximal to a buffy-whitish primary band. Wingtips extended slightly beyond tail tip.



Underparts: Chin brownish with paler speckling and bars, throat with transverse white band (extent uncertain), mottled grayish/blackish on upper breast, breast and belly pale brown with coarse but thin and somewhat wavy darker brown barring. Tail below with regularly spaced alternating wavy bands of buff and dark brown, without whitish subterminal band.





Ground color of primaries dark brown, not blackish. Bird appeared compact when perched.



16. Voice: Not heard.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation):

The extensive buffy markings on the primaries of a nighthawk (by white near alula) eliminates other "expected" species.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Video and photos by me and others. Some of my images attached.

19. Previous experience with this species: Moderate experience in terms of numbers, but extensive in terms of study of their ID.

20. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification):

21. This description is written from: Mental notes and photo review.

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

23. Date: 5/9/2017

Time:

24. May the LBRC have permission to display in whole or in part this report and accompanying photos on the LOS-LBRC website and LBRC Facebook page? Yes

If yes, may we include your name with the report? yes