

# 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 as necessary. Please print or type. Attach xerox of field notes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for more 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, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): *One male*
3. Locality: Parish: *Terrebonne* \_\_\_\_\_  
Specific Locality: *Whiskey Island* \_\_\_\_\_
4. Date(s) when observed: *26 March 2018*
5. Time(s) of day when observed: *1510 CDT*
6. Reporting observer and address: *Robert C. Dobbs, Lafayette, LA*
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): *Bright, mid-afternoon under sunny, mostly blue sky. Conveniently, the bird approached from the ENE, and was nearly overhead in good light relative to the position of the afternoon sun, which was behind me in the S/SW.*
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): *Nikon Monarch 10x42 binos (good condition), Nikon AF-S 70-300 mm 1:4.5-5.6 G camera lens (good condition)*
11. Distance to bird(s): *50 m ?*
12. Duration of observation: *6-8 sec*

13. Habitat: Barrier island comprised of mangroves, marsh, sand and tidal flats, recently reconstructed and yet-to-be reconstructed beach

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Flying over--direct flight from ENE to WSW--showing no apparent interest in circling, dropping in altitude, or foraging. It appeared to be engaged in long, direct, perhaps migratory flight and would soon be over the Gulf of Mexico if it did not change course (which it showed no indication of doing). Identification based completely on photos; I did not even look at the bird through binos in the field because I knew it was a significant record--either early (Common Nighthawk) or rare (Lesser Nighthawk)--as soon as I saw the bird and realized it was a nighthawk.

15. Description (include only what was actually seen, *not what "should" have been seen*; include if possible: 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): An obvious nighthawk, superficially resembling Common Nighthawk based on size and structure, with similarly long, angular, pointed wings, generally mottled buffy brownish-gray plumage below, a black chin contrasting with a white throat, a med-length, square-tipped dark tail with white bars, and a bold white bar across primaries. In flight, spread wing clearly shows rows of buffy spots on inner primaries and on secondaries. Wings appeared relatively rounded, compared to Common Nighthawk, due to P10 being shorter than P9, and the white primary bar appeared positioned farther toward the wingtip. **See *Similar Species*, below.** Accepting an identification as Lesser Nighthawk, gender was male based on white in throat and the white color of the primary bar.

16. Voice: Not vocal

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): From Common Nighthawk by (characters ranked from most important/least subjective to least important/most subjective): (1) rows of buffy spots on inner primaries; (2) white bar across primaries includes extensive white on outer web of P10; (3) P10 obviously shorter than P9, shown in multiple photos of wings at multiple angles/positions; (4) position of white bar across primaries appearing near wing tips.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? Attached?): Photos by Robert C. Dobbs, attached.

19. Previous experience with this species: Extensive in the desert southwest, and a few in LA

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

a. at time of observation: [none](#)

b. after observation: [Dittmann and Cardiff, 2015, In-field and photo identification primer: Common and Lesser nighthawks, LBRC 2015 Newsletter.](#)

21. This description is written from: \_\_\_\_\_ notes made during the observation (\_\_\_\_\_ notes attached?);  [X](#) notes made after the observation (date: [next day](#)); \_\_\_\_\_ memory;  [X](#) images taken during the observation.

22. Are you positive of your identification if not, explain: [Yes](#)

23. Date: [29 April 2018](#) Time: [1000 CDT](#)

24. May the LBRC have permission to display this report or portions of this report on its website?  [Yes](#)

If yes, may we include your name with the report?  [Yes](#)



Photo above with further cropped and shadows lightened:





