

LOUISIANA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE
REPORT FORM

1. Lesser Nighthawk *Chordeiles acutipennis*
2. One female, age uncertain
3. Location: Cameron Parish, LA; town of Holly Beach
4. Date: 25 October 2003
5. Time: appx. 0850 cdt
6. Reporting observer: B. Mac. Myers III; 5660 Ada Pl.--rear apt.; New Orleans, LA 70124
7. Accompanying observers: Curt Sorrells, Phillip Wallace, David Muth, R. Dan Purrington
8. Independent observers: none
9. Light: okay we were looking north at the perched bird, and it flew generally east
10. Optics: 10x42 Eagle, excellent condition
11. Distance originally maybe 60-70 yds; subsequently much closer, especially for some of the others who were ahead of me walking to the bird
12. Duration: a couple of minutes
13. Habitat: sitting on a power line within the main group of camps in town
14. Behavior: sitting on power line: flew off fairly low to ground
15. Description: clearly a nighthawk. Perched it seemed quite buffy below. In flight the buffiness below was confirmed. More significantly it had rather blunt tipped wings, the wing patches were out near the tips, and the wing patches on both upper and lower surfaces were buffy, not white.
16. voice: not heard
17. Similar species: Common Nighthawk is the main problem, but I guess Antillean would be a remote possibility. the wing shape and location of the wing patches seemed better to me than for Common or Antillean. Also, I'm not sure if they are diagnostic, but the buffy color of the wing patches is better for Lesser.
18. Photographs: Dan Purrington got at least one pretty good one which he scanned and sent to various people; I don't know if he submitted it to the committee. If he has not, then I will urge him to do so.
19. Previous experience: a few Lessers in LA, many out west. Many Commons.
20. Aids: don't recall, maybe Geo or Sibley at the time. Later I checked various guides.
21. Description made from notes scribbled in the field
22. Based on what I saw of the bird, I could not be 100% sure, unless the buffy color of the wing patches eliminates Common.
23. Signature: *B. Mac. Myers III*
24. Date and time: 27 February 2004, 1520 cst