

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

REPORT FORM

1. English and Scientific names: Lesser Nighthawk, *Chordeiles acutipennis*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
1 male
3. Parish: Cameron
Specific Locality: Willow Island
4. Date(s) when observed: 1 May 2021
Also possibly seen on 30 April and 2 May, but conservatively, the date above.

5. Time(s) of day when observed: Off and on between 6:10 and 8:00 AM.

6. Reporting observer and city/state address

Reporting observer: Paul E. Conover
City: Lafayette

7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): Gary Broussard

8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Light was fine, but shaded perch meant loss of light for photos.

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Zeiss 10s, Nikon D3300 with 200 mm lens.

11. Distance to bird(s): Down to about 30 feet maybe

12. Duration of observation: Longest sustained observation about 30 minutes.

13. Habitat: Remnant cheniere with large oaks

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation:

I saw a nighthawk at dusk the day before as it left the cheniere to forage in the fields and was as certain as I could be without documentation that it was a Lesser. I may have seen a second bird over the field as well. The next morning Gary and I got up early to see if any nighthawks returned to the trees. I watched as at least 1 nighthawk came in and searched for perches, but I lost sight of the bird. Later we flushed a nighthawk and trailed it around until we located it perched.

15. Description:

Nightjar with white band across primaries. White subterminal band on tail indicates male. White throat patch. Buff undertail coverts.

Covert pattern typical of Lesser with three distinct rows of spots on coverts, the upper row formed by the hindmost lesser coverts white, the lower two (on median and greater covert tips) buffy. Flight photos show heavy buff patterning on primaries and band on wing well distal of primary covert tips (crossing wing at level of 6th primary). Broad buff fringe to trailing edge of wing formed by buff tips of secondaries.

Overall, a straightforward Lesser with multiple diagnostic features.

16. Voice: not heard

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Common eliminated by several features above.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Yes, by Gary and me.

19. Previous experience with this species: Seen extensively out west, as well as on about a dozen occasions in Louisiana.

20. Identification aids: I've studied the fieldmarks of this species and pretty thoroughly

21. This description is written from: Memory and photo review. We spent a long time watching this individual.

22. Are you positive of your identification? Yes.

23. Date: 18 May 2021





