

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: 9 April 2022
5. Time(s) of day when observed: about 10:30 a.m.
6. Reporting observer and city/state address

Reporting observer: Paul E. Conover
City: Lafayette
State: LA

7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): Mac Myers
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): Sunny.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Zeiss 10s, Nikon Fieldscope 20-60x (plus Samsung S8 phone), Nikon 3500 w/200mm lens.
11. Distance to bird(s): About 20 feet at minimum, about 60 feet for most of observation
12. Duration of observation: 20-30 minutes
13. Habitat: Remnant chenier cluster with old growth Live Oaks
14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation):

A bird that appeared to be a male Lesser Nighthawk flushed as I was walking with my scope to observe a perched Common Nighthawk, but the flushed bird quickly disappeared behind a large Live Oak. I alerted Mac and his birding companion to the presence of the bird, and we kept an eye out for it. After making a couple of circuits around the woods, I returned to where the Common was perched and a nighthawk flew across the trail and landed in front of me. I started snapping pictures as it appeared to be a Lesser, and called Mac over. He got a look at it and then the bird flew. We watched it try to perch several times, but it never stayed perched for long and eventually flew into the trees. A few minutes later we located it on a perch and were able to study it at length and take photos.

15. Description:

Small, compact nightjar with white stripe across the primaries and narrowly barred underparts. Overall cryptically patterned and colored with bark-and-lichen motif dorsally. Lichen-like white tips to lesser, and buff tips to median and greater coverts formed three distinct rows on folded wings. Primaries fairly broad tapering

to broadly rounded tips. White bar across primaries 7-10 broader on outermost of these primaries, with echo pattern of buffy bar proximal to white bar. White puff in area of alula.

Underparts with brown mottled throat (white, if present, concealed), dark patch across upper breast, sepia-toned underparts with pale brownish ground color and narrowly-spaced darker brown bars from breast to vent, with barring becoming sparse on pale brown undertail coverts.

Tail pattern not visible but white bar on wing and reduced buffy spots visible on primaries indicate male.

16. Voice: Not noted.

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

Common Nighthawk by pattern of wing coverts and buff markings on outer primaries. Other nightjars by white band across primaries.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Photos attached. Video also available.

19. Previous experience with this species:

Pretty extensive, with a lot of study put into this species and Common Nighthawk.

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

21. This description is written from:

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

23. Date: 12 April 2022



