

LBRC 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
3. Parish:
Vermillion
4. Specific Locality:
Highway 82 west of Pecan Island
5. Date(s) when observed: 4/11/24
6. Time(s) of day when observed: around 8pm, twilight
7. Reporting observer: Esme Rosen
8. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):
9. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):
10. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): very little light, sighting was after sunset
11. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Nikon binoculars
12. Distance to bird(s): flew over fairly close, moving around quite a bit so distance rather variable
13. Duration of observation: 4 minutes
14. Habitat: coastal marsh, adjacent to coastal woods
15. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): flying and searching for insects

16. 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):

clearly a nighthawk by wing shape, narrow pointed wings, v shape from front. White patch on primaries eliminates any other nightjars. Cigar shaped body with square tail. Coloration seen rather poorly due to lack of light, other than white wing patch, which contrasts more with the dark body. In the photo, the white wing patch seems to be on exactly 4 of the primaries. See below for how Common Nighthawk is eliminated

17. Voice: not heard

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

Common Nighthawk eliminated primarily using wing shape and the position of the white wing patch. I believe the position of the white wing patch is enough to identify the bird definitively. The white on the wing is closer to the tip, about 1/3 of the distance from the tip to the bend in the wing, whereas on Common the wing patch will be half way between the tip and the bend in the wing. Additional supporting characteristics are the number of primaries with white, which was 4 - on Common it should be 5, and also the shape of the wing. Generally the wing shape looked rather rounded, and p9 appeared to be longer than or at least similar in length to (depending on the angle) p10. In Common p10 is distinctly longer, giving a more pointed appearance to the wings.

19. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?):

photos attached

20. Previous experience with this species: I've seen the species once before in Louisiana, and several times out west as well

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

I referred to an eBird Central America post about nighthawk ID

22. Identification aids used when?

After observation

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

yes

24. Date report completed:

4/12/24

25. 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

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

Yes



