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## COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD ☐UNUSUAL RECORD ☒

Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species: LESSER NIGHTHAWK | CHORDEILES ACUTIPENNIS  
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date(s): MAY 24<sup>th</sup> 1991Number of birds seen: 2 Sex: 1♂ 1♀ Plumage: BREEDINGLocality: CLIFTON SEWAGE PONDS Elevation: JUST UNDER 5000'Nearest town: CLIFTON County: MESATime(s) observed: 8:15 → 8:55Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): MORE THAN 20 MINUTES

Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

COEN DEXTER 3227 D RD CLIFTON, COLORADO.VIC ZERBI, RICH LEVAD, JACK MERCHANT.

Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers)

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):

LIGHT GOING FROM DUSK TO DARK, NO CLOUDSOptical equipment used (e.g. power, types): BINOCULARS 10XDistance, and how measured: MOSTLY 50-100 yds BUT AS CLOSE AS 30' OVERHEAD

If photographed, type of equipment and film: \_\_\_\_\_

Who else photographed the bird? \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):

FLYING AND FEEDING BY CATCHING INSECTS OVER CLIFTON SEWAGE PONDS.

Describe in detail the bird's relative size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern. Include details of bill, wing and tail shape. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions and illustrations is not enough. Describe only what you actually observe in the field:

THE FEMALE WAS SEEN FIRST. THE BEST FIELD MARKS WERE THE ROUNDED SHAPE OF THE WING TIPS (FIRST PRIMARY SHORTER THAN SECOND - OPPOSITE IN COMMONS WHICH HAVE POINTED WINGS) AND NO OBVIOUS <sup>WHITE</sup> WING PATCHES SHOWING AT A DISTANCE. BIRD LOOKED BROWN COMPARED TO GRAY OF THE COMMON NIGHTHAWKS PRESENT. OBVIOUS SIZE DIFFERENCE ALSO -

Description (continued):

LESSER NIGHTHAWK IS LESS BULKY AND HAS SHORTER WINGS THAN COMMON NIGHTHAWK. WHEN BIRD CAME CLOSE COULD SEE BROWN WING PATCH TOWARDS END OF WING (ESPECIALLY ON DORSAL SIDE) AND ONCE SAW MOTTLED UPPERPARTS WHEN BIRD BANKED AT VERY CLOSE RANGE. WE THEN PICKED OUT ANOTHER SMALLER, ROUNDED WINGED BIRD BY EYE, AND WHEN LOOKED AT THROUGH BINOCULARS IT HAD WHITE WING PATCHES NEAR END OF WING (NEARER END THAN IN COMMONS) THAT WERE CLEARLY VISIBLE FROM ABOVE AND BELOW. AGAIN BIRD WAS SMALLER AND BROWNER THAN COMMONS. THIS MALE HAD WHITE PATCH TOWARDS THE END OF ITS TAIL. THE LESSER'S FLIGHT WAS MORE FLUTTERY THAN COMMON'S WITH A SLIGHTLY FASTER WINGBEAT. Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):

NO CALLS OR SONGS HEARD

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:

FLYING OVER SEWAGE PUMPS.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

COMMON NIGHTHAWK (SEE ABOVE) WING SHAPE, SIZE, COLOR, POSITION OR LACK OF WHITE WING PATCHES

ANTILLEAN NIGHTHAWK - SAME FEATURES AS COMMON NIGHTHAWK

COMMON PHAEOPE - MUCH TOO SMALL

OTHER CAPRIMULGIDAE - WING & TAIL PATCHES.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?

HAVE SEEN LESSER NIGHTHAWKS SEVERAL TO MANY TIMES IN S.W. USA

VERY FAMILIAR WITH COMMON NIGHTHAWK - NEVER SEEN ANTILLEAN NIGHTHAWK.

QUITE FAMILIAR WITH ALL OTHER US CAPRIMULGIDAE

List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

a) at time of observation: NONE

b) after observation: NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC FIELD GUIDE

This report was written from reports made during \_\_\_\_\_, after observation X from memory. Date and time report was written: MAY 25th 1991 5pm

Reporting observer: PETER R. GENT Signature: Peter R. Gent

Address: 55 SOUTH 35th ST, BOULDER, CO 80303.

All reports will be maintained permanently at the address below:

Return to:

CURATOR, DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS  
DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY  
CITY PARK  
DENVER, CO 80205

29-91-39

**COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGIST - SIGHT RECORD FORM**NEW STATE RECORD ☐ UNUSUAL RECORD ☒Species: Lesser Nighthawk / *Chordeiles gundlachi*

Date: May 24, 1991

Number of birds seen: 2 Sex: 1 Female/1 Male Plumage: Breeding

Lat/long: 8 Distribution Code: 7 Habitat Code: 0

Locality: Elevation: 5000

Nearest town: Clifton County: Mesa

Time observed: 8:30 P.M.

Duration of observation: 45 Minutes

Other observers who saw the bird with me: Peter Gent &amp; Jack Merchant

Other observers who saw the bird independently: Cohen Dexter

Light conditions: Pre-dusk &amp; dusk

Optical equipment used: 10 x 42 Bausch &amp; Lomb Binoculars &amp; Kowa TSN-4

Scope with 20-60 Eyepiece.

Distance and how measured: Estimated 15 to 300

If photographed, type of equipment and film used: None

The bird's behavior: feeding in flight and soaring

Other photographers: None

Description of the bird: Nighthawk-shaped bird (i.e. forked tail/long pointed wings larger than swallows in area. Female seen 1st. Smaller than common Nighthawks in area. Underwing and underbody much lighter in color, when closer buffy not dark brown. Wing tip was not as pointed as Common Nighthawk, seemed much more rounded. When close, wing tip feathers after the first feather were substantially shorter than the first feather. Wing-bar visible only when very close and when seen was not white but also slightly different shade of white. On male bird, the wing bar was far more visible with greater contrast with underwing than in the female but otherwise matched female bird's shape.

Description of the bird's call: None

Description of the habitat in which the bird was observed: Sewage

Pond adjacent to Colorado River

How other species were eliminated: lighter buff underwing pattern/ rounded wing tip/ smaller than adjacent Common Nighthawks/ quicker, more agile flight than Common Nighthawks/ difficulty seeing wing bar in female/ different flying style-feeding more often by swooping down close to pond-surface.

Prior Experience with this species: seen and heard well three times in

Southeast Arizona.

Books, illustrations, other birders consulted and how they influenced the identification:

a) At the time of observation: Peterson's Western Birds, Nat. Geographic Birds Of N. America & Mark Janos's article from CFO Journal

b) After observation: None

This report was made from reports made during observation ☐after observation ☒ from memory ☐

Date and time report was written: 5/25/91

Reporting observer: Vic Zerbi

Address. 1118 Red Mountain Drive  
Glenwood Springs, CO 81601

Signature. Vic Zick