

CFO-ORC FILE #

1997-52

PHOTOS

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD ☐UNUSUAL RECORD ☒

rec'd 6-10-97 ACCEPTED 7-0

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

Species: Lesser Nighthawk | Chordeiles acutipennis
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date(s): 8, 9, 10 May 1997Number of birds seen: 2 Sex: 1 ♂ 1 ♀ Plumage: adultLocality: Lamar community college woods Elevation: _____Nearest town: Lamar County: ProwersTime(s) observed: evening 5/8/97, early morning 5/9 & 5/10/97Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 5 minutes (5/8), 1 hr (5/9), 1 hr (5/10)

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

Joe Mammoser Steve Stahowiak Dick Schottler

Vic Zerk Don Beltz JB Hayes

Joey Kellner Norm Rothol Dave Quisenberry

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

Don Bridges? Brandon Percival? Mark Gross? Mark Hollinger?

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

Various, including shade & full sun

Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 8x42 Swift binocs, Bushnell spacemaster scopeDistance, and how measured: As close as 20'If photographed, type of equipment and film: Kodacolor Gold 200 film 100-300 Tokina telephoto on Minolta bodyWho else photographed the bird? Joe Mammoser

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

Birds were seen foraging over the woods & buildings @ dusk. The female was seen sitting on horizontal limbs of cottonwoods in wooded sandy area at south end of Lamar CC woods. When flushed from roost, it would fly 50 yards or so through the trees and alight anew.

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:

(See photos)

The birds were approximately the size of Common Nighthawks but seemed a bit smaller, more slender. They showed white wing streaks on the underside of the wings typical of the nighthawk group. The white bands appeared to be $\frac{2}{3}$'s to $\frac{3}{4}$'s of the way from the base in the wing to the tip. The wing tips were more rounded than the common nighthawk's would be and the primary tips were often spread, the second primary appearing slightly longer or at least as long as the first. The belly and chest of the bird were evenly banded by dark & light stripes (both narrow). The tail was likewise banded, the male showing a broad white band near the terminus. The female showing even dark & light bands. Except for the white terminal band of the male tail, the light areas appeared light brown and not white. The throats of the birds were marked with a light slash, the males being white (I do not recall the color of the female's throat slash) but the

Description (continued):

At rest, the female showed numerous lt. brown spots along the leading edge of the wing inside (toward the shoulder) from the white slash. There was a row of large tan-white ovals across the shoulder area (see photo). Other than these ovals, the throat and the wing slash, all light areas, spots, and squares on this bird were buffy brown.

In flight the two lesser nighthawks displayed a flight that was interspersed with short periods of fluttering, herty-jerky flight.

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):

Silent

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

Riparian woodland consisting of cottonwood, silver elm, Russian olive, green ash and salt-cedar.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

The only real chore with these birds was separating them from common nighthawks. They had long narrow wings and no white in the tail. They landed in trees. The white in the wing was further out than common nighthawk buffy spots. Flight pattern, silence and undertail pattern (see photo) were all different than common nighthawk.

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

I have seen a few lesser nighthawks in the desert SW. I have seen birds in CO at Clifton, Tuba City; Fort Collins. I have seen thousands of common nighthawks.

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

a) at time of observation: none

b) after observation: All the std. field guides

This report was written from reports made during X, after observation X from memory X

Date and time report was written: 23 May '97 (in pair)

Reporting observer: David Leatherman Signature: David Leatherman

Address: 612 Stover St #7 Fort Collins CO 80524



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rec'd 6-4-97 ✓ 8

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS
SIGHT RECORD FORM

PHOTOS

NEW STATE RECORD ☐

UNUSUAL RECORD ☒

Species:

(Vernacular Name): Lesser Nighthawk

(Scientific Name): *Chordeiles gundlachii*

aculeipennis

Date(s): 5/9/97

Number of birds seen: 1

Sex: male

Plumage: breeding

Locality: Lamar Community College

Elevation: about 4200 feet

Nearest Town: Lamar

Time(s) observed: 08:00 am

Duration of observation: 15 minutes.

Other observers with you (names, addresses, phone numbers):

Vic Zerbe

Dick Schottler 25 S. Indiana Pl. #1A

Golden CO 80401

(303) 278-8035

Other observers who saw the bird independently:

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light): It was sunny and I saw the

bird from several angles.

Optical equipment used: Swarovski ST80 scope at 40X power and Leica 10X42 binoculars.

Distance, and how measured: It varied but I stepped off one of the times at 30 yards.

If photographed, type of equipment and film: N/A

Who else photographed the bird? N/A

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying): It preferred to perch lengthwise on horizontal branches about ten to twenty feet up. Sometimes it flew when we got too close and circled around and picked another tree.

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 bird seemed to be about jay sized but more stocky than a jay. It was obviously a nightjar. The overall impression was of a buffy/brownish colored bird. It had a pure white throat. There was a line extending from the eye backwards with a buffy supercilium. The bill was black. The eye was dark and the nostril was visible. There were buffy spots in what I thought were the tertials. There were buffy bars on the upper primaries. The underparts were striped horizontally with narrow brown bars. In between the bars it was a lighter buffy color. The spaces between the bars were perhaps 2 to 3 times as wide as the bars. The tail was forked in flight. The under tail had 4 distinct buffy bands and a larger white subterminal band.

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration): none

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

Previous experience with the species: I have seen many nighthawks of both species but have not spent much time studying them in this kind of detail before.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

Only nighthawks have such extensive white throats.

I didn't really consider Antillean Nighthawk.

Common Nighthawk is gray rather than buffy with gray bands on under tail and without buffy spots on wings.

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

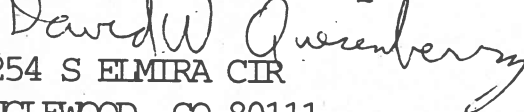
a) at time of observation: The NGS guide.

b) after observation: The NGS guide.

This report was written from reports made during _XX_,
after observation --, from memory --

Date and time report was written: 5:30 pm, 6/04/97

Reporting observer: David W. Quesenberry

Signature: 
Address: 6254 S ELMIRA CIR

ENGLEWOOD, CO 80111

Return to:

Mark Janos

10 Sedum Ct.

Pueblo, CO 81001