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## First Florida Specimen of the Lesser Nighthawk

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A more recent and noteworthy record of the Common Snipe in Florida is one I flushed twice from a drainage ditch west of Tallahassee (Leon Co.) on 15 June 1977. At the same place during 25-28 June and once on 6 July, a snipe, probably the same bird, was flushed seven more times, including once by John R. Patterson (pers. comm.). The bird was wary and surprisingly silent; it flushed at about 30 m and only once gave its typical alarm note. The presence of a snipe for such an extended period (22 days) in June and July is unprecedented for Florida.

North of Florida the southernmost June-July records are more than 300 miles away in the Tennessee Valley of Alabama (Imhof 1976). The lack of any summer records in southern Alabama and Georgia may be partly attributed to the lack of field observers in those areas as compared to Florida.

The above records indicate that in Florida the Common Snipe is probably extremely rare in summer, and perhaps to be encountered more frequently in the northern part of the state.

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**First Florida specimen of the Lesser Nighthawk.** — On the afternoon of 19 May 1976, while observing migrants on St. George Island, Franklin County, Florida, I discovered a Lesser Nighthawk (*Chordeiles acutipennis*) perched lengthwise on a pine limb in a dense hammock near Rattlesnake Cove. The bird appeared smaller and browner than the Common Nighthawks (*C. minor*) that were abundant on the island. When the bird flew, the white wing bars seemed unusually close to the wing tips, and I collected it (specimen no. 3482, Tall Timbers Research Station). The bird was a male, with total length 220 mm, wing chord 176 mm and weight 47.0 g, and was not fat. Eugene Eisenmann (American Museum of Natural History) identified the specimen as *C. a. texensis*.

The only previous record of the Lesser Nighthawk in Florida is from the Dry Tortugas where 3-10 individuals were seen daily from 8-17 May 1966 (Cunningham 1966, Aud. Field Notes 20: 497-499). In Louisiana, this species has been recorded from the Gulf coast as a spring (7 April-23 May) and fall (8 Sept.-9 Jan.) migrant occurring in flocks or as single individuals (Lowery 1974, Louisiana birds, Baton Rouge, Louisiana State Univ. Press). One record for this species exists from Bermuda (Wingate 1973, Check list and guide to the birds of Bermuda, Hamilton, Bermuda, Island Press), a female found dying on 3 December 1965 (D. Wingate, in litt.).

More recently in Florida, another Lesser Nighthawk was seen well on 5 November 1977 by Bonnie Carter and the author at almost the exact location of the 19 May 1976 individual. — JAMES M. STEVENSON, 1409 Branch Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32303.