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A Lesser Nighthawk in Northwestern Florida

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GENERAL NOTES

Fla. Field Nat. 9(2):33, 1981

A Lesser Nighthawk in northwestern Florida.—On 14 April 1980, we observed a Lesser Nighthawk (*Chordeiles acutipennis*) along the Blackbird Marsh Nature Trail at Fort Pickens, Gulf Islands National Seashore, Escambia County Florida. Each time we flushed the bird during the 15-min observation, it flew low (often at eye level) among the shrubbery and fluttered through branches of live oaks (*Quercus virginiana*) and once landed in the branches of a pine tree (*Pinus* sp.) 5-6 m above ground. Lucy Duncan photographed the bird at rest and flying, and the color transparencies (copies to Tall Timbers Res. Sta.) clearly show the position of the white patches near the end of the wing and the overall coloration of rusty to buffy brown. The bird also appeared smaller than the Common Nighthawk (*C. minor*). It was seen the following morning by Wayne Valentine, Interpretative Naturalist for the park.

This observation was associated with westerly winds that were up to gale force the previous day and fresh to strong the day of the sighting. Other birds that normally occur to the west of northwestern Florida in spring migration were also seen within 3 days of the sighting including 3 separate observations of Yellow-headed Blackbirds (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*), a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Muscivora forficata*) on St. Joseph Peninsula, and 2 Lincoln's Sparrows (*Melospiza lincolni*) banded at Gulf Breeze. Thus strong west winds probably blew these birds east of their usual migration route. Furthermore, a review of daily weather records kept by R. A. Duncan (at Gulf Breeze) reveals that strong westerly winds were also associated with 2 of the 3 other spring records of Lesser Nighthawks for the Panhandle.

There are 5 previous records of the Lesser Nighthawk in Florida: 8-17 May 1966, Dry Tortugas, 3-10 individuals; St. George Island, 19 May 1976, 5 November 1977 (Stevenson 1978, Fla. Field Nat. 6: 50); 4 May 1978, St. Marks Refuge (Kale 1978, Amer. Birds 32: 993-997); 28 April 1979, St. George Island (Kale 1979, Amer. Birds 33: 762-765). This sighting is the sixth record of the Lesser Nighthawk for Florida and the first for extreme northwestern Florida. Five of the 6 records have occurred along Florida's northern Gulf coast with 3 at St. George Island.—ROBERT A. DUNCAN AND LUCY DUNCAN, 614 Fairpoint Drive, Gulf Breeze, Florida 32561.

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Nesting of the Summer Tanager near Oviedo, Florida.—Although the Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) is a common summer resident and migrant throughout much of Florida (Stevenson 1977, Vertebrates of Florida: identification and distribution, Gainesville, Univ. Presses of Florida), few breeding records are reported in the literature (Sprunt 1954, Florida bird life, New York, Coward-McCann, Inc.). On 2 June 1980 a pair and their nest were located 2 mi S of Oviedo, Seminole County, Florida, in an area dominated by pine and oak trees. The nest was about 5 m above the ground and near the outer end of a horizontal branch of a longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*) (color photos of adults and nest to Vertebrate Museum, Univ. Central Fla.). On 7 June we saw two nestlings being fed by adults, but on 9 June the nest was destroyed by a severe windstorm. The male stayed in the area for a short time thereafter, but the female was never observed again. Florida breeding records of this tanager, other than those reported by Sprunt (1954), include: 15 May 1934—nest with 4 eggs, Duval Co. (Shannon); 5 June 1971—nest with 2 half-grown young (one collected, Tall Timbers Res. Sta. No. 3206), Sopchoppy, Franklin Co. (Stevenson); and 26 July 1950—nest with 2 eggs, Jacksonville (Grimes).

We thank Henry M. Stevenson for providing the above unpublished nest-records.—WALTER KINGSLEY TAYLOR AND ROBERT J. LAIRD, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Central Florida, Orlando, Florida 32816.