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POSSIBLE BREEDING OF LESSER NIGHTHAWK IN TULSA COUNTY, OKLAHOMA

BY ROBERT W. DICKERMAN

The Lesser Nighthawk *(Chordeiles acutipennis)* is known from Oklahoma by a single male with somewhat enlarged testes (UOMZ 4794) collected by W.M. Davis on 23 April 1961 in Boise City, Cimarron County, at the west end of the Panhandle (Sutton, G.M., 1967, Oklahoma birds, Univ. Oklahoma Press, Norman, p. 275). J.A. Grzybowski and G.D. Schnell (1984, Oklahoma ornithology, an annotated bibliography, Univ. Oklahoma Press, Norman) listed no references to the species published through mid-1983. The Lesser Nighthawk has nested as far north as southwestern Utah and central New Mexico (1983, AOU Check-list, 6th ed., p. 308). P.A. Johnsgard (1979, Birds of the Great Plains, Univ. Nebraska Press, Lincoln) omitted the species for lack of nesting evidence in the area covered.



DORSAL AND VENTRAL VIEWS OF JUVENILE NIGHTHAWKS
*Left to right, Lesser Nighthawks (*Chordeiles acutipennis*) AMNH 81621, Brownsville, Texas; USNM 340247, Tulsa County, Oklahoma; and Common Nighthawks* (Chordeiles minor) *USNM 235061 Fort Verde, Arizona (subspecies* henryi); *USNM 5595, Kansas, 70 miles west Fort Riley (subspecies* howelli).

In searching North American collections for pre-flight young of the Common Nighthawk *(Chordeiles minor)* for a study of geographic variation in the juvenal plumage of that species, I found a stubby-tailed Lesser Nighthawk from Tulsa County, Oklahoma! The specimen in the U.S. National Museum (No. 340247) was found on 15 June 1933, apparently by Edith R. Force, and was prepared as a "life-like" mount by A.E. Gilmore. The obverse of the original "watch-tag" label bears the field number "WJH 241" (= Wilson Junior High, *fide* John S. Tomer). Unfortunately, Tomer informed me that he was unable to find mention of this specimen in Miss Force's field notes which he is preparing for archiving in the University of Tulsa Library.

I have compared the specimen with series of nestlings of both species, including all of the North American subspecies of the Common Nighthawk. Its dorsal cinnamon color is among the richest of any *acutipennis* specimen I have seen (Dickerman, R.W., 1981, Geographic variation in the juvenal plumage of the Lesser Nighthawk *(Chordeiles acutipennis)*, Auk 98:619-621; and 1982, Further notes on the juvenal plumage of the Lesser Nighthawk, Auk 99:764). The specimen is finely vermiculated dorsally, lacking entirely the black shaft streakings found in all subspecies of the Common Nighthawk except the northern prairie form *sennetti* which is pale grayish to buffy, never cinnamon.

In the U.S. National Museum the specimen was identified as *Chordeiles minor howelli;* on the field tag is the notation in pencil: *"howelli* HCO." Harry C. Oberholser earlier had revised the nighthawks (1914, A monograph of the genus *Chordeiles* Swainson, type of a new family of goatsuckers, Bull. U.S. Natl. Mus. 86:1-121). The identification of the Oklahoma juvenile was obviously based on Oberholser's concept of what "should" have been in the area, rather than on the characters of the specimen itself.

Be that as it may, the specimen is assumed to have been found in Tulsa County. If so, because it obviously could not fly, the bird would have hatched there, thus providing the first breeding record for Oklahoma, and indicating at least a sporadic extension of the known nesting range of the species. The possibility that the chick was brought to Tulsa from somewhere in its known breeding range, however, cannot be discounted unequivocally.

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NESTING AND SUMMER RECORDS FOR OSPREYS IN OKLAHOMA

BY LOYD D. ISLEY AND JAMES W. LISH

In Oklahoma the Osprey *(Pandion haliaetus)* is best categorized as a transient species, most often being encountered around large bodies of water during spring and fall. Some birds spend the winter, but this is a rare occurrence. There are midsummer sightings, but no nests, for Alfalfa, Payne, and Tulsa counties (Sutton, G.M., 1967, Oklahoma birds, Univ. Oklahoma Press, Norman, p. 121). Even though M.M. Nice (1931, The birds of Oklahoma, Rev. ed., Publ. Univ. Oklahoma Biol. Surv. 3(1):76) reported that a pair nested during June