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¹ Present address: 776 SE Goodnight Avenue, Corvallis, OR 97333.

Western Races of the Common Nighthawk on the East Coast of North America

ROXIE C. LAYBOURNE
Division of Birds
National Museum of Natural History
Smithsonian Institution
Washington, DC 20560

WILLIAM POST
The Charleston Museum
360 Meeting Street
Charleston, SC 29403

On 4 October 1974, Robert B. Berry and F. Prescott Ward found a Common Nighthawk, *Chordeiles minor*, dead on the beach at Assateague Island, Worcester County, Maryland. The bird (USNM 575735) was an immature male, testes 2 x 1 mm, with molt on the head and neck (wing 188.0 mm, tail 99.1 mm). Laybourne identified the specimen as *C. m. sennetti* by its extremely pale gray coloration and fine vermiculation in comparison to a series of *C. m. minor* in the U. S. National Museum of Natural History (USNM). This western form of the Common Nighthawk breeds only as far east as southwestern Minnesota (American Ornithologists' Union [A.O.U.] 1957). Extralimital records of *sennetti* east of the Mississippi River are three collected in Ohio in August and September (Aldrich 1936, Hicks 1938), and one taken in Kentucky in September (Mengel 1965).

On 16 October 1983, Post collected an unusually pale buffy nighthawk during the course of a mist-netting operation on Sullivan's Island, Charleston County, South Carolina. It was captured in a 20 x 50 m grassy opening between two dense thickets of wax myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*). The specimen (USNM 600021), an immature female (wing 192.0 mm, tail 99.6 mm, weight 58.5 g), was identified by Laybourne and R. W. Dickerman as *C. m. howelli*. It was compared to six juvenile specimens of *C. m. sennetti* (USNM 5595, 240406, 404957, 576014, AMNH 61220, 825220) from northeastern Kansas, North Dakota and South Dakota, and two juvenile specimens of *C. m. howelli* (KU 15971, USNM 589925) from southeastern Kansas and New Mexico, in addition to the *C. m. minor* in the USNM. The dorsum of this specimen is more rufescent and black and not as finely vermiculated as the juvenile *sennetti*. The markings

on its underparts are finer, paler and more rufescent, with less barring. The undertail coverts are less distinctly barred than in *C. m. minor*, in which they are heavily barred. *Chordeiles m. howelli* breeds as far east as central Oklahoma and north-central Texas (A.O.U. 1957).

Both *C. m. sennetti* and *C. m. howelli* winter in South America. Individuals leaving their breeding range would be expected to move directly southward over the central states, Louisiana, and Oklahoma, a route documented by the few migrant specimens available (A.O.U. 1957). The two extralimital records treated here may be examples of eastward, wind-influenced displacement of fall migrating individuals (Gauthreaux and LeGrand 1974, Gauthreaux 1980).

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