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Antillean Nighthawk *Chordeiles gundlachii*

The Antillean Nighthawk is a rare but regular summer resident of the Florida Keys and southeastern mainland. Its range overlaps that of the Common Nighthawk, with which it was formerly combined. It is best distinguished by its distinctive "pitty-pit-pit" call and buffy underparts. This nighthawk also breeds in the Bahamas, the Greater Antilles, and the Cayman Islands.

Habitat. Both nighthawks use open, coastal-strand habitat. Airports in the Keys are a favored locale for this species. Airports provide open, bare spots for nesting, and at night the lights attract insects and make them visible. Like the Common Nighthawk, the Antillean eats flying insects, and other aspects of the biology of these two nighthawks are similar.

Courtship displays are similar to the Common Nighthawk, with less pronounced wing "boom." There is no nest simply open, bare, or leaf-littered ground with, in Florida, 1 white/olive egg with olive spotting. The olive spotting on the eggs is lighter than on those of the Common Nighthawk (Ehrlich et al. 1988).



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Seasonal Occurrence. Breeding has been documented from April through August (Robertson 1978g). The Antillean Nighthawk arrives in Florida in April, and a few may stay as late as September or October (Stevenson and Anderson 1994).

Status. The Antillean Nighthawk's breeding range now extends to the Florida Keys from the Bahamas, Greater Antilles, and Cayman Islands. The Atlas survey provided 4 confirmed records and 9 "probable" or "possible" records. Clearing of forested areas has aided its expansion into south Florida and the Keys. It is known to defer its territory from the Common Nighthawk (Stevenson et al. 1983).

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Antillean Nighthawk

