

Common Nighthawk *Chordeiles minor*

In spite of its name, the Common Nighthawk is extremely rare in San Diego County. Though it breeds as close as the San Bernardino Mountains, its migration swings to the east, and the species is seldom seen at low elevations anywhere in southern California. The Common Nighthawk resembles the Lesser closely and is best distinguished by its loud call, like an alarm buzzer.

Migration: There are four records of the Common Nighthawk in San Diego County, of one heard at Cabrillo National Monument, Point Loma, 5 June 1975 (J. L. Dunn), one seen in the Tijuana River valley 25 September 1976 (AB 31:233, 1977), one seen and heard at Escondido



Photo by Anthony Mercieca

11 July 1981 (K. L. Weaver), and one seen and heard at El Cajon 6 July 1988 (G. and R. Levin, AB 42:1341, 1988).