

APPENDIX III

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGIST--SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD _____ UNUSUAL RECORD X _____Species: Red-Throated Loon *Gavia stellata*
(Vernacular name) (Scientific name)Date: 10/31/92 and several other dates through ?

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: unk Plumage: winter adult

Latilong: 8 Distribution Code: M Habitat Code: L

Locality: Highline Lake State Park Elevation: approximately 4700'

Nearest town: Loma, CO County: Mesa

Time(s) observed: 7:00-7:30 am

Duration of observation: 30 min.

Other observers who saw the bird with you:

Other observers who saw the bird independently: Coen Dexter and several others

Light conditions: Fair. Early morning sun at 90 deg angle. Later observations under all conditions from poor to excellent.

Optical equipment used: 7x35 binoculars

Distance and how measured: 200-250 feet. Estimated

If photographed, type of equipment and film: n/a.

Who else photographed the bird:

Describe the bird's behavior:

The bird paddled actively over the surface and dove frequently for up to 50 seconds. It held its bill at an angle above horizontal.

Describe in detail the bird's size, shape, plumage and color pattern. Include details of bill, wing and tail shape.

The bird was much smaller than the common loon that was also present. The bird back, cap, and hind neck were all a soft gray. The chin, throat, and breast were white. The gray to white margin on the side of the neck was vague rather than sharply delineated. The bill was small and upturned. The foreneck showed a bit of dark marking.

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery:
No vocalizations heard.

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:

On the surface of Highline Lake.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

Common Loon---much bigger (one present with this bird), side of neck heavily patterned, heavy bill.

Pacific Loon---Side of neck showing sharp division between light and dark. Bill straight and held horizontally.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?

Common Loons are regular fall migrants in W. Co. I have seen two migrating Pacific Loons in the past few years here. I saw my only other Red-throated Loon last fall at Vega Reservoir.

List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced you identification:

A) At time of observation:

Peterson's Western Birds, National Geographic Birds of North America, and Kaufman's Advanced Birding were consulted to eliminate other possibilities.

B) After observation:

This report was written from notes made during observation X, after observation_____, from memory_____.

Date and time report was written: November 19, 1992.

Reporting observer: Richard Levad

Signature:



Address: 2924 Ronda Lee Rd., Grand Junction, CO 81503

Return to Curator, Department of Zoological Collections
Denver Museum of Natural History
City Park
Denver, CO 80205