

2003-125
ACCEPTED

Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form
(Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.)

Each table cell will automatically enlarge as you type!

CBRC FILE #:

RESULTS:

Species: (Common Name) Red-throated Loon (Scientific Name) *Gavia stellata*

Date(s) of occurrence: 6 Dec 03

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: Adult Basic (?)

Exact location: Standley Lake

County: Jefferson Nearest town: Arvada Elevation: about 5300' (?)

Length of observation: About 45 minutes Time(s) of observation: About 7:45 – 8:30 am

Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: Ric Olson, Norm Erthal, Peter Gent

Other observers who independently saw the bird(s): Lary Semo (found the bird), M. Ob.

Light conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s) and observers position: Good light

Optical equipment used: Kowa TSN 824 + 50X WA + Nikon Coolpix 4500

Distance to bird(s) (estimated, unless otherwise noted): About 400 meters at closest

Was (Were) bird(s) photographed? Yes If so, are you submitting photos? Yes

Who took the photograph(s)? Bill Schmoker

Describe the general and specific habitats in which the bird(s) occurred: Large suburban water storage reservoir

Describe the bird's (birds') behaviors, particularly behaviors that were used in supporting the identification, e.g., flying, feeding, habits: The bird was associating with two Pacific Loons. The group of loons spent time diving, preening, and resting on the surface.

DESCRIPTION – A diving waterbird- clearly a loon. Sharply pointed bill, appearing dark or gray depending on the light. Bill not as robust as other loon sp. Bill virtually always held above horizontal a bit. Face with white cheeks and darker cap. Border of the dark cap appears to be along top of eye. Eye color not visible at this distance. Throat and sides of neck white, thin dark strip on back of neck. Neck appears more slender than PALO necks under most postures- may be illusion due to mostly white coloring. Back dark with white speckling. Flanks (not always visible) appeared much lighter than back. Size a little smaller than accompanying Pacific Loon. Much smaller than Common Loon that swam by once.

Describe the bird's (birds') call(s) and/or song(s), if noted: Not heard

SIMILAR SPECIES – Diving ducks ruled out by bill shape and head posture. Cormorants ruled out by neck coloration, etc.

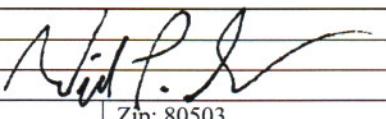
Aechmophorus grebes ruled out by bill color, size, and shape, and by head shape and posture differences. Other grebes ruled out by bill shape, etc. Pacific Loons with the bird were a little larger and had much more extensive dark hoods, slightly darker & larger bills, lack the white speckling on the back, etc. Arctic Loon ruled out for reasons similar to PALO. Other loon sp. are larger and have bigger bills.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? I've only seen one other RTLO. I've seen many COLO and PALO, and one YTLO and one ARLO. I've seen gobs of Aechmophorus grebes.

List books, guides, recordings, or other sources consulted and how these influenced your identification (during and after observation):
Sibley Guide to Birds, Birds of Europe

This report was made from photos and notes made during observation.

Date and time of written report: 8 Jan 04

Reporting observer: William P Schmoker Signature: 

Reporting observer's address: 3381 Larkspur Dr.

City: Longmont State: CO

Zip: 80503

Photos 6 Dec 03
Standley Lake
RTLO w/ 2 PALOs



RTLO w/ COLO

