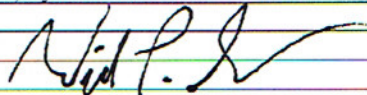


**Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form**

(Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.)

***Each table cell will automatically enlarge as you type!***

CFO-RC FILE X:		
RESULTS:		
Species:(Common Name) <b>Yellow-billed Loon</b>		(Scientific Name) <i>Gavia adamsii</i>
Date(s) of occurrence: 11/23/02		
Number of birds seen: 1	Sex: ?	Plumage: Juvenile
Exact location: Center of Chatfield Reservoir, viewed from the "old" heron rookery overlook		
County: Jefferson/Douglas	Nearest town: Littleton	Elevation: ~5300 feet
Length of observation: About 1 hour		Time(s) of observation: Approx 12:30-1:30 p.m.
Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: Jim Schmoker, Brandon Percival, M. Ob.		
Other Observers who independently saw the bird(s): M. Ob.		
Light Conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s); position: Bright sunlight from behind and to the left of our position.		
Optical equipment used: Kowa TSN 823, 32X W.A. eyepiece, Nikon Coolpix 995		
Distance from bird(s) (estimated unless otherwise noted): Bird swam around about 1/4 mile away.		
Was bird(s) photographed? yes		If so, have you submitted photos? Yes (5 submitted via email)
Who took the photographs? Bill Schmoker		
Describe the general and specific habitat in which the bird(s) occurred: The bird was in a Front Range flood control reservoir.		
Describe the bird's behavior (flying, feeding, habits, behaviors used in identifying the Species or in supporting the identification): The bird was swimming, diving, and preening.		
Describe the bird in detail. This is the most important part of this report. Include the overall size and shape and how you placed the bird in the general group that you did. Give complete details of plumage, including head, throat, undersides, nape, back, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird(s). Describe other important details, such as color and shape of bill, legs, eye, (etc.) that were important in making the identification. (Fill out this portion even if photographs are submitted; you may attach additional sheets, drawings, field sketches or copy field notes): I think this could be the same bird as I reported from Boyd Lake on 11/5/02. The description still fits, with the main difference being the tint in the photos (the Boyd lake photos were taken just before sunset and have a much warmer tone.) From that report: "As seen in the photos, this loon had a proportionately very long light whitish-yellow colored bill. The only dark part of the bill was the back part of the topmost part of the bill. The face of the bird was also extremely light colored, making the eye stand out as the only substantially dark feature on the head or neck. Overall the face and back of the neck were very light, almost faintly yellowish gray. The head of the bird appeared very flat on top, with a steeply sloping forehead meeting the bill at a sharp angle. The bird habitually held its bill quite above horizontal, giving it the appearance of always looking "up" as it swam around. Lighter colored rings surrounded the eye, matching the throat, front of the neck, and breast which were also almost white. The back of the bird was darker than any other feature, appearing dark gray. There was prominent white barring cutting across most of the back."		
Describe bird's call or song: Not heard.		
Discuss similar species and how you eliminated them: Again, from my first YBLO report; "The overall body plan, bill and head shape, and barring on the back ruled out other families of long-billed diving birds like grebes or cormorants. Among loons, an extremely pale bill and face coupled with the large size, very long bill, pronounced "flat" head, and pronounced steep forehead suggest Yellow-billed. Red-throated and Pacific Loons have much smaller, darker appearing bills, rounder heads, and are much smaller bodied. Common Loons also may appear flat headed and have steep foreheads, but among the many Commons I've seen I've never seen the flat head and steep forehead so pronounced. In my experience the bills of Common Loons don't appear this large. I'm accustomed to seeing a lighter spur breaking into the dark back half of the neck on fall Common Loons, which this bird lacked. I've also never seen a Common Loon look this pale about the face, neck, and bill, although leucism or partial albinism should be ruled out. I believe that the dark back with pronounced barring diminishes this possibility, as does the dark posterior of the top of the bill."		
What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? This is the second YBLO observation I've had this fall. I've seen lots of Common Loons, including about 15 in Colorado this fall.		
List books, guides, recordings or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation): After the observation I consulted The Sibley Guide to Birds and Seabirds (An Identification Guide) by Peter Harrison		
This report is from photos and notes made during and after observation.		
Date of written report: 12/8/02		
Reporting observer: William P. Schmoker		Signature: 
Reporting Observer's Address: 3381 Larkspur Dr.		
City: Longmont	State: CO	Zip: 80503
Phone: 303/702-9589 email: bill.schmoker@bvsc.k12.co.us		



2002-110







Head comparison of Boyd Lake (top) and Chatfield Res. Yellow-billed Loons. Boyd Lake photo has been flipped 180° for comparison. The warmer tint of the Boyd Lake photos is a result of timing- they were taken in the minutes preceding sunset. I think they could be the same bird. Other comparison photos:

Boyd Lake, 11/5/02



Chatfield Reservoir, 11/23/02

