

1-91-3

Reimer
12-4-91

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SPECIES: Yellow-billed Loon
(Vernacular Name)Gavia adamsii
(Scientific Name)DATE(S): 12-2 Through 12-6-1991 TIME OF OBSERVATION: 11:15 TO 11:45 (12-7-91)
(when studied)EXACT LOCATION: Charfield Reservoir State Park (off Handicapped Fisherman's Pier)NEAREST TOWN: Littleton, Colorado COUNTY: Jefferson/Douglas

OTHER OBSERVERS WHO INDEPENDENTLY IDENTIFIED THIS BIRD:

DAVE LEATHERMAN first Discovered This Bird. Others who have since observed this bird are:J. B. Hayes, Glenn & Gene Hegeman; Joe Roller, MD; Duane Nelson;OPTICAL EQUIPMENT: Zeiss 10x40 Binoculars, Bausch & Lomb 4" Reflecting scope (40x)WEATHER CONDITIONS: 35°F, Sunny, wind N 3-7 mphBIRD/SUN ORIENTATION: Sun was Behind observer; observer faced NorthDISTANCE FROM BIRD AND HOW MEASURED: 25-150 yards (estimated)NUMBER OF BIRDS SEEN: 1 SEX: unknown PLUMAGE: WinterBEHAVIOR AND DEMEANOR: first seen approximately 25 yards off Handicapped Fisherman's "Pier" peninsula (between Peninsula and Dam), swimming and occasionally diving. The bird stayed this close (25 yds) for about 10 minutes. Only saw the right side of this bird once. The bird ~~was~~ was slowly heading left towards the small spillway. Sometimes seen with a juvenile Red-Throated Loon (Gavia stellata).

HEAD & NECK (forehead, crown, auricular & malar regions, median line, etc.):

Forehead and crown Brown (varying in shade); Dark Brown ear patch (actually a circle) on the bird's left side. A similar ear patch (but much fainter) was present on the right side of this loon. Head held somewhat upward (above horizontal).EYES & LORES (supercilium, eye-ring, eye-stripe, color, etc.): Dark eye on white of face, Brown of crown extended from bill to just over the eye. A lighter "patch" was noticed above the eye (see sketches)LOWER & UPPER MANDIBLES (color & shape): Color yellow, pale yellowish-white at base of bill; A dark area was noticed on the top 1/2 of the upper mandible; culmen straight; lower~~mandible~~ mandible angled sharply upward to the tip. Overall, bill was large, culmen light. Legs & feet: Not seen during observationUPPERPARTS (nape, back, rump, uppertail coverts, etc.): Nape light to medium brown; side of neck "patchy" like a common loon (Gavia immer); back & rump medium brown "banded" with white (noticeable for some distance). Back darker brown than crown or nape. (see sketch)UNDERPARTS (chin, throat, belly, sides, flanks, crissum, etc.): Chin & Throat white; Front of neck dirty white (light brown wash on lower neck); Sides & flanks not particularly noted.

RETRICES (inner, middle & outer tail feathers; color, pattern, shape, etc.):

Tail ~~was~~ NOT PARTICULARLY NOTED.

WINGS (color, length, shape, bars, coverts, etc.): Same as Back (see sketches).

VOCALIZATION (call/song, method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight):

No Vocalizations were heard.

HABITAT: Fresh water, Large, Man-made Reservoir

ELIMINATION OF SIMILARLY APPEARING SPECIES:

Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*) - Small Loon, NOT Large Like This one; DARK Bill slightly upturned
NOT yellow like this bird; color overall is GRAY+BLACK NOT Brownish.

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*) - medium sized Loon with SHARP contrast BETWEEN DARK & LIGHT on
NECK, Bill DARK & STRAIGHT NOT "upturned" LIKE yellow-billed.
Sometimes shows a "chin strap". This Loon had a "PATCHY" LOOK TO
THE neck, A Large yellow Bill AND NO "chin strap".

Common Loon (*Gavia immer*) - Large Loon with "fairy" LOOK TO THE neck Bill STRAIGHT (NOT angled upward like
yellow-billed or Red-throated), usually DARK (BUT sometimes light colored); LACKS
EAR SPOT; This bird had a pale Culmen NOT DARK LIKE A common Loon.

PRIOR EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND SIMILARLY APPEARING SPECIES:

Red-throated Loon - Seen in Colorado and California in winter plumage (one was swimming with this
yellow-billed Loon).

Pacific Loon - Several seen in Eastern Colorado over the last several years; All in winter plumage.

Common Loon - Seen many times in Colorado in both breeding and winter plumage.

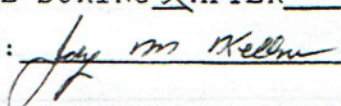
The comparison of Red-throated and yellow-billed Loons together really helped rule out
Red-throated & Pacific Loons (Both relatively small Loons)

BOOKS, ILLUSTRATIONS AND ADVICE CONSULTED THAT INFLUENCED THIS REPORT:

None needed.

THIS REPORT WRITTEN FROM NOTES MADE DURING ☒ AFTER ☐ OBSERVATION; ☐ FROM MEMORY

NAME: Joey Kellner

SIGNATURE: 

DATE: 12-4-91

Tuesday December 03, 1991

Place(s): Chatfield Reservoir, CO

Time(s) - 11:15-12:00

Weather - 35F, sunny, wind N 3-7

Observer(s): J.B. Hayes
Joey KellnerLoon, yellow-billed

- 1

Grebe, Western

- 3

Eagle, bald

- 1 adult

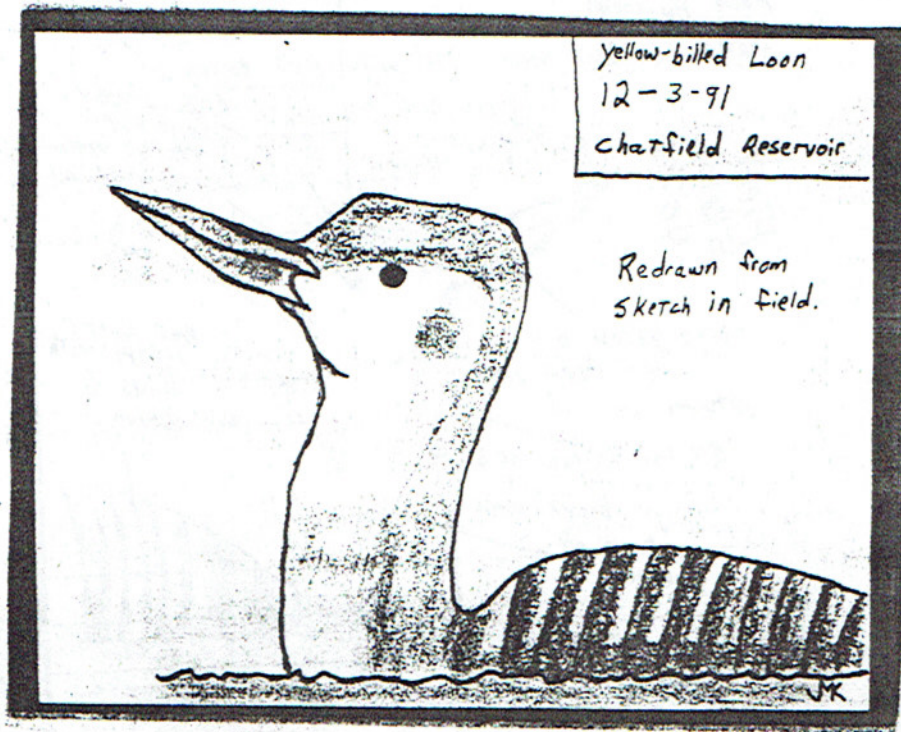
Gull, California

- 1 adult

DARK eyes
BLACK spot in front of
Red spot on bill, yellow legs.

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Total Species = 4



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Yellow-Billed Loon 12-3-91

@ Chatfield Reservoir (old marina point near
Fishing Pier)

Head block shaped →

even Brown color on
Crown & NapeHead held
above horizontal

Feathers on back were tipped with white edges

Field
Sketch &
NotesDark Area
on 1/2 of upper
mandibleWhite Area Above
eyeLarge Round
eye on border
of white faceDark
ear
patchLarge yellow Bill
NOT straw colored
upturned to tip

Bill pale whitish at base

Light brown wash
on front of
neckBack darker
than nape with
rows of
white barring

150 yds

~ 25 yds from myself & J.B. Hayes

@ 11:35 - 11:45 AM

Light to our backs, we faced N

Field Notes

Joey