

SPECIES: Yellow-billed Loon Gavia adamsii 1-963
(Vernacular Name) (Accepted) (Scientific Name)

DATE(S): 1/3/91 TIME OF OBSERVATION: 13:50 pm TO 14:40 pm

EXACT LOCATION: Just offshore from the observation point on the south side of the Rawh.

NEAREST TOWN: north of Ft. Collins, Wellington COUNTY: Larimer ^{River Plant pond} (Hamilton Reservoir)

OTHER OBSERVERS WHO INDEPENDENTLY IDENTIFIED THIS BIRD:

Kevin Rogers (brother)

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT: 10x50 binoculars, spotting scope with zoom (→60x) eyepiece

WEATHER CONDITIONS: mostly clear

BIRD/SUN ORIENTATION: sun mostly behind me

DISTANCE FROM BIRD AND HOW MEASURED: 50 yards (estimated)

NUMBER OF BIRDS SEEN: 1 SEX: _____ PLUMAGE: immature

BEHAVIOR AND DEMEANOR: Swimming just offshore, primarily resting and preening

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

Thick-necked, large loon with heavy bill, brown forehead, crown, nape and back of neck. Brown not as dark as in Common Loon and not extending as far forward on sides of neck. Dark "ear spot" below and behind eye.

EYES & LORES (supercilium, eye-ring, eye-stripe, color, etc.): _____

LOWER & UPPER MANDIBLES (color & shape): Bill dull yellow with straight culmen that was yellow on outer 2/3. Strong gonysoidal angle.

LEGS & FEET: _____

Bill held slightly upturned



UPPERPARTS (nape, back, rump, uppertail coverts, etc.): _____

Back brown, evenly scalloped with pale fringes over entirety

UNDERPARTS (chin, throat, belly, sides, flanks, crissum, etc.): _____

Chin, throat, and foreneck white. Dark to water line

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

WINGS (color, length, shape, bars, coverts, etc.):

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

Silent

(details included since there is some controversy about the identification of this bird - American Birds Vol. 45 #3

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HABITAT: *large reservoir, open water*

ELIMINATION OF SIMILARLY APPEARING SPECIES:

A single small immature Common Loon was present for comparison (at first this bird, which was initially distant, was thought to be a Pacific Loon due to its small bill, lacking a strong gonysal angle and no obvious white "indentations" on the neck. When the bird swam closer, however, a single white "indentation" was visible, the nape was seen to be as dark as the back, and the bill was within the range of variation shown by Common Loons). Compared to the Common Loon, the Yellow-billed Loon was much larger (direct comparison was possible), a paler brown with less extensive brown on neck, and had a very different bill from the Common's blue-gray bill (held horizontally) with all dark culmen.

PRIOR EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND SIMILARLY APPEARING SPECIES:

Seen once previously on 1/30/82 at the Berkeley Marina in central California. Numerous Common, Pacific, and Red-throated Loons seen throughout the winter every year in California.

BOOKS, ILLUSTRATIONS AND ADVICE CONSULTED THAT INFLUENCED THIS REPORT:

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

NAME: *Michael M. Rogers* SIGNATURE: *Michael M. Rogers* DATE: *1/29/94*