

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD

UNUSUAL RECORD

1X1 first spring rec.
for the Pueblo
Area.

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

Species: Yellow-billed Loon (Vernacular Name) Gavia adamsii (Scientific Name)Date(s): March 4, 21, 24, 31 April 2, 3, 22, 25, May 11, 1995Number of birds seen: one Sex: unknown Plumage: immatureLocality: Pueblo Reservoir SW of North Shore ^{Mexico} Elevation: Nearest town: Pueblo West County: PuebloTime(s) observed: various timesDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 110 minutes total from 3/4-5/11/95.

Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

Mark Janos on 4/2Peter Ginsburg of CA on 4/3

Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

Mark Janos (finder) 10 Sedum Court Pueblo, Colorado 81001one bird 12/17-11/7 1994-95two birds 1/8-4/3 1995 also Jon Dunn of Ohio on 4/11

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):

excellentOptical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 10X40 Bausch & Lomb Binoculars, 15X60 BEL Spotting ScDistance, and how measured: 10-1500 to 20 yardsIf photographed, type of equipment and film: not photo graphedWho else photographed the bird? no one

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):

The bird was seen floating on the water. It dove many times as I watched it. It also caught a small orange fish.Describe in detail the bird's relative size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern. Include details of bill, wing and tail shape. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions and illustrations is not enough. Describe only what you actually observed in the field: The size was about 34 inches. The shape was loon shaped. The plumage was an immature because of the lighter color back, older birds have darker backs. The color pattern is as follows: yellow bill, dark eyes, white front with a dusky neck. The head from the bill to the nape was dark brown. The brown went above both eyes. The face was whitish with a faint spot behind the both eyes. Both sides of the neck was lighter br

Description (continued): then the color on the head. From the nape to the start of the back was dark brown the same color as the head. The back was lightish brown with whitish line, going threw the back. The tail was also light brown. The flanks were also light brown. The feet were pinkish like it preened. Details of bill was upturned and thick. The wings and tail was typical loon shaped. I identified the bird by it's yellow up turn b. and large size. Also by it's loon shape.

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration): no sound's heard.

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

The bird was observed on a large man-made reservoir in Southeastern Colorado.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

Common Loon: dark bill, back is darker, and the size is smaller.

Red-throated Loon: size much smaller and thinner bill.

Pacific Loon: dark bill, gray head and nape and much smaller.

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

Yellow-billed Loon: 1 Previous in Colorado in 1992 at Pueblo Reservoir

Red-throated Loon: 6 in CO, 3 in other states. 1 Lake Henry, 1 Chatfield, 1 Beckwith Lake also many in CA.

Pacific Loon: many in CO each fall since 1989.

Common Loon: many in CO, CA, ND.

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

a) at time of observation: National Geographic Society's Bird's of North America

b) after observation: Bird's of Europe

This report was written from reports made during X, after observation _____ from memory _____

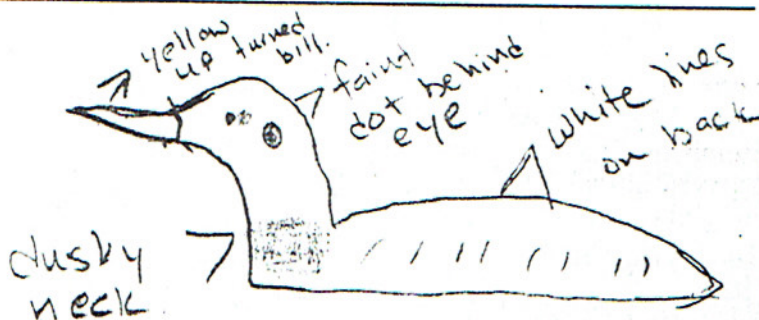
Date and time report was written: 11:30 AM March 4, 1995

Reporting observer: Brandon K. Percival Signature: Brandon K. Percival

Address: 835 Harmony Drive Pueblo West, CO 81007-2604

719-547-3722

Return to:
Bill Prather
C.F.O. Official Records Committee
13810 WCR 1
Longmont, Colorado 80504



COLORADO RARE BIRD REPORT

Accepted (7-0)
J

YELLOW-BILLED LOON

Gavia adamsii

Location: Pueblo Reservoir; Pueblo; Pueblo County, Colorado

Date: January 8 through February 18, 1995

Setting:

I was birding the North Shore Marina about 11:00 a.m. on January 8, 1995. It was a clear, still day. I refound the Yellow-billed Loon that we had found there on December 17, 1994. I continued to scope to my left with a Kowa TSN-4 20-60x when I discovered the loon again, I thought. Then I noticed the other loon and realized I was looking at two. The birds looked nearly identical. Both were juveniles, in their first winter plumage. I showed the two loons to Cliff Smith and Pearl Sandstrom-Smith. I observed both Yellow-billed Loons together on four more occasions, ending on February 18, 1995. By that time the second loon had developed a more-or-less double ear spot and was less ragged and worn than the first loon. The two loons fed occasionally by diving but spent most of their time swimming calmly along the surface. The two loons stayed very close together, often nearly touching. They were sometimes in loose association with a Common Loon, giving excellent side-by-side comparisons of size and color.

Description:

This bird was about 2 1/2 feet long. Compared to the Common Loon it was about 4-6" longer and was proportionately longer- and thicker-necked. It looked bigger as it floated higher on the water. Compared to the Common Loon it held its head and bill up-tilted. It was a much lighter bird than the Common Loon too, being grey-brown vs bluish-black, on the back. It had a large, chunky head: peaked at the fore-crown in a large bulge; broad front-to-back; and rounded behind. This gave the head a distinct double-peaked shape. The neck was proportionately long and thick. It had a much more larger, stouter, up-turned bill. The bird held its bill up at all times, tipped up about 10 degrees above horizontal. The bill had a nearly straight culmen (compared to Common Loon) and a noticeably tipped-up lower mandible (strongly angled gonys). The bill color was pale: bright yellow distally, yellow-grey basally and with a darker ridge at the base of the upper mandible about as far out as the nostril. The eye looked small and dark and was in the middle of the pale white face. The crown and nape were pale grey (paler than on Common Loon). This grey curved back behind the eye to form a indistinct dark patch over the ear. This patch became two-parted as the bird aged. The foreparts and fore-neck were white. The back was medium brownish-grey with distinct, broad, white tips to the scapulars, that, at long distance, created widely spaced whitish rows. The sides were light grey but usually submerged. The rear-parts were blackish.

Similar Species:

The Common Loon is darker, smaller and with a smaller head and shorter, thinner neck. The bill is grey, not yellow, and is smaller, more dagger-like with a curved culmen, and is held horizontally, not up. The Red-throated Loon is much smaller, with small, darker thin bill. It has a lighter, not darker, area behind the eye and shows indistinct light specks on the back. The Pacific Loon is smaller, has a straight, horizontally-held bill, a darker crown, and a distinct blackish border between the dark rear- and light fore-neck. This bird was distinctively different, as described above, in direct comparison with Common Loons.

Experience with Species:

I have seen many Common and Pacific Loons in Colorado and on the West coast. I have seen Red-throated Loons in Colorado in 1992 and 1994 and in March 1992 in the Seattle, Washington area. I have seen Yellow-billed Loon twice before in Colorado (also at Pueblo Reservoir).

This report was prepared from memory.

Mark Janos
10 Sedum Ct.
Pueblo, CO 81001

Mark Janos