

Accepted JK 1/30/1974

Species: RED-THROATED LOON

Gavia stellata

(Vernacular Name)

(Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): December 15, 1973

Time Bird Seen: 10:15 A.M. to 10:45 A.M.

Locality: Marston Reservoir

Nearst Town: Englewood/Denver

County: Jefferson

Other observers who identified this bird:

NAME ADDRESS
Harold Holt 449 S. Kavior Denver Colo.

TELEPHONE

Jack Reddall 4450 So. Alton St. Englewood Colo.

Optical Equipment: 20-45x spotting scope

Light Conditions: good at first then it swam toward the sun

Distance from Bird (how measured): 100 plus yards estimated.

Number of Birds Seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: winter

Overall Appearance and Size: the bird was about the size of a mallard but long and slender bodied, pointed bill (lower mandible distinctively upturned and no distinct contrast between back and breast).

Detailed Description (describe only what was actually observed in the field):

Bill (shape and color): grayish colored with lower mandible upturned

Legs (shape and color): didn't see

Crown and Forehead: light grayish-brown

Eye (color): no see

Nape: light grayish-brown

Face: white

Throat: white

Breast and Sides: white and white

Belly and Flanks: white and not noted on flanks

Undertail Coverts: not observed

Back: light grayish-brown

Wings: flushed-light grayish-brown

Underwings: not seen

Rump: not seen

Uppertail Coverts: not seen

Upper Side of Tail: not noticed

Under Side of Tail: " "

Shape of Tail: not noted

Voice: none heard

Behavior: Swimming- diving-

Habitat: lake

Prior Experience with this Species: No previous experience

How Were Similarly Appearing Species Eliminated? Common loon was larger, has a straight lower mandible and a distinct contrast (light and dark) between the back and breast. arctic loon- straight bill, and also, a distinct contrast between back and breast. Yellow-billed loon- yellow bill, large size and contrast between back and breast.

The bird we saw there was no distinct contrast between the back and the breast and the up curved lower mandible.

This Report was Written From: Notes made during after ☒ observation; Memory ☒

Signed: Jack Reddall Street Address: 2510 Elizabeth St.

Date Prepared: December 20, 1973 Town and State: Pueblo Colorado ZIP: 81003

Return to: JACK REDDALL - 4450 South Alton Street, Englewood, Colorado 80110

(USE REVERSE SIDE OF SHEET OR ADDITIONAL PAGES IF NECESSARY)

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Locality: Marston Reservoir

Nearest Town: Englewood/Denver

County: Jefferson

Other observers who identified this bird:

NAME

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

Jack Reddall

Van Truan

Optical Equipment: 20x scope

Light Conditions: good

Distance from Bird (how measured): 400-500 yards (estimated)

Number of Birds Seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: winter (gray)

Overall Appearance and Size: snaky and small

Detailed Description (describe only what was actually observed in the field):

Bill (shape and color): light and upturned, small

Legs (shape and color): ?

Crown and Forehead: gray

Eye (color): red

Nape:

Face:

Throat: white

Breast and Sides: white

Belly and Flanks: belly white, flanks slightly mottled with gray

Undertail Coverts: ?

Back: gray with fine white spots

Wings: gray with fine white spots

Underwings: light

Rump: ?

Uppertail Coverts: ?

Upper Side of Tail: ?

Under Side of Tail: ?

Shape of Tail: ?

Voice: didn't call

Behavior: sat on water primping and doove occassionly

Habitat: lake

Prior Experience with this Species: observed once before off California coast

How Were Similarly Appearing Species Eliminated? smaller and more snaky, grayer and had small upturned bill. no sharp demarcation line between crown and cheeks.

This Report was Written From: Notes made during after observation; Memory x

Signed: Harold R. Holt Street Address: 449 S. Xavier St

Date Prepared: 12/29/73 Town and State Denver, CO ZIP 80219

Return to: JACK REDDALL - 4450 South Alton Street, Englewood, Colorado 80110

(USE REVERSE SIDE OF SHEET OR ADDITIONAL PAGES IF NECESSARY)

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGIST'S SIGHT RECORD REPORT
☒ RARE OR UNUSUAL RECORD ☐ NEW STATE RECORD

CFO-ORC FILE # 1-73-142

Accepted JR 1/30/74

Species: RED-THROATED LOON

Gavia stellata

(Vernacular Name)

(Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): December 15, 1973

Time Bird Seen: 10:15 A.M. to 10:45 A.M.

Locality: Marston Reservoir

Nearest Town: Englewood/Denver

County: Jefferson

Other observers who identified this bird:

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
<u>Harold Holt - 449 South Xavier, Denver, Colorado 80219</u>		<u>936-8845</u>
<u>Van Truan - 2510 Elizabeth, Pueblo, Colorado 81003</u>		<u>543-2959</u>

Optical Equipment: 10X50 Binoculars; 15X-60X Zoom Telescope

Light Conditions: Clear, bright sky; no heat waves; light coming toward observer's left.

Distance from Bird (how measured): 300 feet gradually increasing to 500 feet, estimated.

Number of Birds Seen: One Sex: Unknown Plumage: Winter or possibly immature

Overall Appearance and Size: Upper parts brownish-gray; under parts white; Loon shaped, obviously smaller than Common Loon. Bill decidedly smaller than Common Loon, upturned slightly at end. Bird appeared snaky in profile compared to Arctic Loons seen in November.

Detailed Description (describe only what was actually observed in the field):

Bill (shape and color): Dark in color; short, pointed and slightly upturned at end.

Legs (shape and color): Not seen other than during brief period of flight.

Crown and Forehead: Brownish-gray

Eye (color): Not seen

Nape: Brownish-gray

Face: White

Throat: White

Breast and Sides: White

Belly and Flanks: White

Undertail Coverts: Not seen

Back: Light brownish-gray (distance too great to see small white spot markings)

Wings: Brownish-gray; (no white patches as in most Grebes).

Underwings: Not seen

Rump: Brownish-gray

Uppertail Coverts: Not noted specifically

Upper Side of Tail: Not noted specifically

Under Side of Tail: Not seen

Shape of Tail: Short; feet dangled well beyond tail when in flight.

Voice: Silent.

Behavior: First observed in flight about six feet over the water surface into teeth of very strong west wind. Finally settled on water; alternately diving and preening self.

Habitat: Fresh water reservoir on high plains near foothills to Rocky Mountains.

Prior Experience with this Species: I have seen many hundreds on both coasts in winter along the Atlantic Coast of Long Island, New York where it is possible to see up to as many as 50-75 per day (10 years experience); Puget Sound and Elliott Bay off Seattle, Washington (for three years); San Francisco Bay and Monterey Bay (for 4 years).

How Were Similarly Appearing Species Eliminated? Western Grebe is much whiter on neck, darker on back, has straight, thin yellow bill, has white wing patch in flight; all other local Grebes eliminated on size. Common Loon much larger, with much heavier and longer straight bill. Common Loon also appears darker on upperparts. Arctic Loon is roughly the same size but generally appears darker on upperparts, the line of demarcation between the dark upperparts and whitish underparts being sharply contrasted in "arctica". The bird seen at Marston Reservoir on December 15, 1973 did not display this marked contrast. Arctic Loon has small, pointed and relatively straight bill; Yellow-billed Loon too large.

This Report was Written From: Notes made during X after X observation; Memory

Signed: Jack Reddall

Street Address: Jack Reddall 4450 South Alton Street

Date Prepared: December 16, 1973

Town and State Englewood, Colorado

ZIP 80110

Return to: JACK REDDALL - 4450 South Alton Street, Englewood, Colorado 80110

ADDITIONAL NOTES ON RED-THROATED LOON AT MARSTON RESERVOIR, COLORADO ON 12/15/1973

I first observed this bird flying low over the water surface of Marston Reservoir struggling into a very strong and gusty westerly wind. Its quick wing beats on long, pointed wings (which showed no white patch as in Grebes) and hunched over flight with feet dangling well beyond tail easily earmarked the bird as a Loon. When it settled on the water a few moments later, it was obvious by its size and small bill that it was not a Common Loon. I immediately began concentrating on the bill using between 25X and 45X on the telescope. The bill showed up extremely well and even though I estimated that the bird was about one hundred yards off, it was clearly evident that the bill was slightly upturned at the tip which is characteristic of the Red-throated Loon. I was able to adjust to full 60 power to verify this field mark. I also noticed that the general appearance of this Loon seemed much lighter on the upper parts than the Arctic Loons I found at Cherry Creek Reservoir on November 18, 1973, with the contrast between the upper and lower parts much less pronounced in the Marston Reservoir bird. The overall paler tone of the Red-throated Loon was due most likely to the small white spots on its back which even at 60 power, I couldn't make out. I was able to follow the bird for about twenty-five minutes as it swam, dived and preened itself. However, the ^tstrong wind and resulting waves finally forced it far off to one corner of the reservoir almost directly into the sun and I eventually lost sight of it.

December 16, 1973

Jack Reddall