

## APPENDIX II

DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD SIGHTINGS  
FOR  
THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDS

Species: RED-Throated Loon ; Gavia Stellata  
(Vernacular name) (Scientific name)

If you watch birds solely for your own enjoyment, a written description of your observations is unnecessary. But, if you have seen something unusual, and would like to share this with others, a written description is essential. Compilers of regional bird lists must insist that their records be scientifically sound; future bird students -- those studying occurrences 50 years from now -- must have a written record on which to depend. By providing the verifying written description, you are employing a basic rule of the scientific method.

We recognize that experienced field observers can provide important and reliable records, if supported by an adequate verifying description. Thus this request is an effort to perpetuate your record by obtaining concrete evidence which may be permanently preserved for examination by others in the future. This procedure is required for every extraordinary observation, irrespective of the observer.

Dates (s): 11-4-84 Time Bird Seen: 10:05 A.M. to 10:45 A.M.

Locality: Latham Reservoir, 2 miles east of LASALLE,  
COLORADO IN WELD COUNTY.  
Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: 7X50 binoculars, 3 20 power Spotting Scope.

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: — Plumage: winter plumage

Light conditions: very SUNNY with sun mostly overhead, very good light

Distance from bird, and how measured: 150 yards, guess relative to football field size.

Describe the bird's overall behavior: Typical Loon-Like. Diving quite a bit. It would dive for 10 minutes off and on and then would stay up for 5 minutes or so.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird: open water but fairly close to the shore for the first 20 minutes and then moving out to deeper waters.

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):

NONE

APPENDIX 1I Continued

Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. Emphasize particularly the field marks used to identify the bird, but include a complete description of the bird. Include size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern; details on shape or size of bill, wings, and tail. (Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions is not enough). Describe what you actually saw in the field.

a SMALL Loon with an upturned bill and also with its head slightly upturned. The back was spotted slightly. The bill was a grayish color and small for a loon. The color of the head was light gray in a line around the top of the eye from the base of the bill over the top of its head down the back of the neck going into the spotting on the back which was gray with light spotting. The rest of the head - <sup>cont on back</sup>  
Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

None heard

List similar species and how you eliminated them: Arctic Loon - straight bill, very contrasting black and white of head & neck. head held straight also.  
Common Loon - Larger <sup>(usually)</sup>, straight stout bill and head held straight.

Prior experience with this and similar species: I've seen 3 Arctic Loons in fall in Colorado and one other Red-throated Loon in Colorado in Nov, 1983 that was documented to records committee. I saw 2 or 3 Red-throated Loons during autumn when I lived in Ohio. Abundant sightings of Common Loon.  
This report was written from notes made during ☒ after ☐ observation; from memory ☒.

Name (print) : Jerry Cairo

Mailing address: 2621 23<sup>rd</sup> Ave #36, Greeley, Colorado 80631

Signature: Jerry Cairo

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Denver, CO 80205



was white below the gray going on down the front of the neck and apparently under the bird. The paleness of this bird was very apparent there wasn't much contrast between the light gray and white on the head and neck. Although the size was about the same as a Western Grebe that was nearby of course the different shape of these species made the Grebe taller in the water and the Loon slightly lower. The tail was noticed as it sloped into the water.

## DOCUMENTATION OF LATILONG STUDY CHANGES

A

Species: Red-Throated Loon : Gavia Stellata  
 (common name) (scientific name)

This information is solicited in order to supplement or correct data appearing in The Colorado Distribution Latilong Studies (1982). This study was developed from contributions by workers throughout the state, and will maintain its validity through a continuation of such contributions.

Latilong Quad #(s): 5 - Greeley

Status (Fill in appropriate recommended changes, see Status Codes):

-----M-----  
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Habitats in which found (See Habitat Codes):

T	AT	Lm	SF	LP	Bc	PP	DF	P.I	SeRB	DS	Se	Sc	MM	SdP	CG	SdSD	MP
TdP	SdM	SS	MmP	AS	RpL	RpT	RpH	MS	W/OG	Ri	L	Ag	Cr	U	O (specify)	open lake	

Abundance (check appropriate recommended change(s):

\_\_\_ Abundant \_\_\_ Common \_\_\_ Fairly Common \_\_\_ Unusual  
 \_\_\_ Rare ☒ \_\_\_ Undetermined \_\_\_ Irregular

## BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION

Locality studied (nearest town & county): LASALLE, WELLS COUNTY  
 If this is a new quad record explain your justification for the status given above: Since this is new quad record the species would have to be considered rare or even accidental.

Date of sighting 11-4-84

Number of animals 1

Behavioral Observations It was a typical loon, diving for periods and then up for periods.

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