

1-88-11

APPENDIX II

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

A

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): October 12, 1987 Time Bird Seen: 11:45 AM to 12:05 PMLocality: CF & I Reservoir
Pueblo Pueblo County Colorado
Nearest town, county and state:Optical equipment: 15-60 zoom lens Swift Telescope

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: _____

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: WinterLight conditions: Good - clear weather - sun to my backDistance from bird, and how measured: 25 to 30 feet estimatedDescribe the bird's overall behavior: This bird was swimming and diving very close to shore in deep water near reservoir dam

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Prairie reservoir with sparse stands of cottonwood, Russian olive, & willows.

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

Seen Oct. 14 by John Yaeger 3303 Morris Pueblo, Colo. 81008Seen Oct. 14 by Mark Yaeger 113 W. Evans Pueblo, Colo. 81004Seen Oct. 17 by Dave Johnson 1920 Greenwood Pueblo, Colo. 81003

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 similar in size to Western Grebes ~~which swim nearby~~.

Top of head and nape grayish brown. Face, Throat, & breast were white with eye on white background. Back & wings slightly browner than head & nape with very small but numerous white speckles on the back. Bill was dark and upturned. Head & bill were held slightly tilted upward.

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

No call heard

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

The bird's overall shape was very slender suggestive of a Grebe. Western; Clark's Grebe may appear to have slightly upturned beaks which are light or yellow in color. This bird's bill was dark. The head of the R-Loon was rounder than the W.C. Grebe's which had flatter heads. The fine back speckling on the Loon does not appear on the W.C. Grebes. Pacific Loons are larger, stockier, & dark cap extends closer to eye. Pacific Loon has short straight bill, thicker neck, and is larger than R-Loon & W.C. Grebes.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

I have observed Western; Clark's Grebes extensively in Colorado & elsewhere. I have seen Pacific Loons several times in Colorado & Washington state. Though this is my first Colorado observation of Red-Throated Loon, I have previously seen it in Washington state.

This report was written from notes made during ✓ & after ✓ observation; from memory _____.

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Return Form To:

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