

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

A

Species: Red-throated Loon; *Alvia 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): 17, 18 November, 1990 Time Bird Seen: 9:15 to 10:15 on 18 November

Locality: Pueblo Res.
Pueblo Colo.
Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: Kowa TSN-4 20-60X scope; Nikon 9x30 binocs

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: —

Number of birds seen: one Sex: — Plumage: 1st-winter

Light conditions: Good; flat light w/ diffu sun at back

Distance from bird, and how measured: 250 yds to 1/4 mile estimated.

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

Swimming on lake. Sometimes diving with a slight jump and feeding underwater. Preened back and sides while floating.
On the 18th it flew west over the reservoir until out of sight.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Reservoir

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

Brandon Percival, Bill Fink, Joe Roller, Dan Bridges

APPENDIX 11 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. Smaller and slenderer than Com. Loon; also lighter, overall and

smaller-billed (though there was never a close side-by-side comparison). Back dark dusky gray w/ flecks of white. Forehead, crown, nape, face (except for white patch on lower & rear part, including dark eye), and sides of neck light mottled smoky gray. Light gray head & neck lighter than back. No sharp edge to border between rear & fore-neck. Front of back & upper breast has a dusky, light grayish color - an extension of nape color, but lighter. Bill light grayish, very slender; with straight culmen and upturned lower mandible. Neck held angled forward and with head and slender bill tilted up at an angle.

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

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

yellow-billed and Common Loons much larger, square-headed, with much darker overall coloration; no light nape; massive bills.
Pacific Loon = has sharp border between dark neck & white front; has white (not dark) foreneck in imm. winter pl.; eye is not in white face patch; lacks upturned, bill slender bill; swims w/ straight profile.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

I've seen all loons in winter and imm. plumage, including all winter loons on Pablos Res.

This report was written from notes made during ☒ after ☐ observation; from memory ☐.

Name (print) : Marjannos Mark Janos
Mailing address: 10 Sedum Ct. Pueblo, CO 81001

Signature: Marjannos

Return Form To:

CFO Records Committee
c/o Curator--Zoological Collections
Denver Museum of Natural History
City Park
Denver, CO 80205