

1-91-2

Kellner
12-4-91

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SPECIES: Red-Throated Loon
(Vernacular Name)Gavia stellata
(Scientific Name)DATE(S): 12-2 Through 12-6-1991 TIME OF OBSERVATION: 11:30-12pm ^(when found) And 4:15-4:35pmEXACT LOCATION: Chatfield Reservoir State Park (off sand spit by marina and near plum creek Delta)NEAREST TOWN: Littleton, Colorado COUNTY: Jefferson / Douglas

OTHER OBSERVERS WHO INDEPENDENTLY IDENTIFIED THIS BIRD:

After initial sighting, several people saw this bird, including: Joe Roller MD., Glenn & Gene Hageman, J. B. Hayes, and Duane Nelson.OPTICAL EQUIPMENT: Zeiss 10x40 Binoculars, Bausch & Lomb 4" Reflecting scope (40x)WEATHER CONDITIONS: Mostly cloudy; High thin clouds; wind N 3-7 mph, 35°BIRD/SUN ORIENTATION: When found, sun was to observers back (I was Looking North)DISTANCE FROM BIRD AND HOW MEASURED: 100-150 yds (estimate)NUMBER OF BIRDS SEEN: 1 SEX: Unknown PLUMAGE: 1st winter JuvenileBEHAVIOR AND DEMEANOR: At first seen diving near a Double-crested Cormorant (Phalacrocorax auritus). The bird spent approximately 85% of the observation time under water. In late afternoon less than 50% of time was spent under water. Sometimes seen with a yellow-billed loon (Gavia adamsii)HEAD & NECK (forehead, crown, auricular & malar regions, median line, etc.): Crown gray; forehead slightly darker; face dirty white; Head held above horizontalEYES & LORES (supercilium, eye-ring, eye-stripe, color, etc.): Small dark eye in dirty white of face; Lores same as forehead (see sketch).LOWER & UPPER MANDIBLES (color & shape): Bill dark; upper mandible appeared straight; lower mandible angled upward to tip, bill small & thin.LEGS & FEET: No seen during observation.UPPERPARTS (nape, back, rump, uppertail coverts, etc.): nape same color and tone as crown; back & rump darker than crown and nape (almost black); light spotting was noticed on the back (I've never seen spotting on a Red-throated before, even though the field guides say there is spotting.)UNDERPARTS (chin, throat, belly, sides, flanks, crissum, etc.): chin white; throat white, as was front of neck and upper breast; line of demarcation between gray of nape and white of throat not sharp, like a Pacific Loon (Gavia pacifica).

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RETRICES (inner, middle & outer tail feathers; color, pattern, shape, etc.):

Tail Not particularly Noted During observation

WINGS (color, length, shape, bars, coverts, etc.): on swimming Bird, wings Looked Like
(And Blended into) Back.

VOCALIZATION (call/song, method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight):

No Vocalizations were Noted.

HABITAT: Large, fresh water, ~~man~~^{man}-made Reservoir.

ELIMINATION OF SIMILARLY APPEARING SPECIES:

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*) - Medium Bill; straight, NOT angled upward to tip Like Red-throated.

usually has a "chin strap"; Definite contrast between Dark (blackish or gray) of nape and white of throat, sometime an actual "line" of demarcation ex.

Yellow-billed Loon (*Gavia adamsii*) - Very Large Bird; Large yellow/yellowish Bill Angled upward to tip; Neck "Patchy" in nature; "Block-headed" Look.

Common Loon (*Gavia immer*) - Large Loon; Large "straight" Bill, ~~not~~ Lower mandible not angled upward; neck "Patchy"; Neck Dark not light gray Like Red-throated Loon.

Western & Red-necked Grebes (*Aechmophorus occidentalis* & *Podiceps grisegena*) - yellow or orange Long straight Bill not Gray Long necked; eye not in white of face; Long necked. Clark's Grebe (*Aechmophorus clarkii*) - Red eye; orange, Long Bill.

PRIOR EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND SIMILARLY APPEARING SPECIES:

Red-throated Loon - seen in California & Colorado in winter plumage, Most recently at Chatfield (12-15-90)

Yellow-billed Loon - seen Several times in Colorado, in winter plumage.

Pacific Loon - seen & several times (more than Yellow-billed Loon), all in winter plumage.

Common Loon - seen many times in Colorado, mostly in winter plumage.

Western & Clark's Grebe - seen many times in Colorado (3 Westerns were present on Lake During observation of this Loon).

Red-necked Grebe - Never seen by myself (yet).

BOOKS, ILLUSTRATIONS AND ADVICE CONSULTED THAT INFLUENCED THIS REPORT:

Kaufman, Kenn. 1990. A Field Guide to Advanced Birding. Houghton Mifflin CO. - Used to Determine Adult & Juvenile Plumages.

THIS REPORT WRITTEN FROM NOTES MADE DURING X AFTER OBSERVATION; FROM MEMORY

NAME: Joey Kellner

SIGNATURE: Joey M Kellner

DATE: 12-3-91

Monday December 02, 1991

Place(s): Chatfield Reservoir, CO

All birds seen were recorded.

Time(s) - 11:15-12:30

Weather - 32F, mostly cloudy, wind N 3-7

Observer(s): Joey Kellner

<u>Loon, red-throated</u>	- 1 - Juvenile?
<u>Loon, yellow-billed</u>	- 1
<u>Grebe, pied-billed</u>	- 1
Grebe, horned	- 1
Grebe, Western	- 3
Cormorant, double-crested	- 1
Goose, Canada	- 75
Mallard	- 2
Pintail, Northern	- 7
Shoveler, Northern	- 25
Goldeneye, common	- 70
Bufflehead	- 1 female
Merganser, common	- 250
Hawk, red-tailed	- 2
Kestrel, American	- 2
Coot, American	- 125
Gull, ring-billed	- 75
Gull, Herring	- 50
Owl, great horned	- 1
Flicker, Northern	
Flicker, red-shafted	- 3
Lark, horned	- 12
Magpie, black-billed	- 6
Shrike, Northern	- 1

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Total Species = 23

