

APPENDIX III

CFO-ORC FILE # 1-93-4

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

Probable first spring recordNEW STATE RECORD ☐UNUSUAL RECORD ☒*This species is apparently very rare, maybe unrecorded in the spring in Colorado.*

Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species: Red-throated Loon / Gavia stellata
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date(s): April 8 + 9, 1993Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: Winter adult

Latilong: _____ Distribution Code: _____ Habitat Code: _____

Locality: Chatfield State Recreation Area, near the Plum Creek Delta Elevation: 25450'Nearest town: Littleton, CO County: DouglasTime(s) observed: 12:00 noon, April 8; 10:30 a April 9, 1993Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 10 minutes - I departed; the bird remainedOther observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):
_____Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers): Joey Kellner, 8612 W. Hinsdale Place, Littleton, CO 80123
Warren Finch, 455 Dover St., Lakewood, CO 80226 978-1748
233-3372Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light): Bright sun, bird strongly front-lit during observation. This was the best possible lighting.Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): Zeiss 10x to B/G ATX
Bushnell spacemaster, 40x obj.Distance and how measured: 600 ft. ± - eyeball

If photographed, type of equipment and film: _____

Who else photographed the bird: _____

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):

Swimming, preening, loafing (not diving or feeding)Describe in detail the bird's relative size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern. Include details of bill, wing and tail shape. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions and illustrations is not enough. Describe only what you actually observed in the field: The bird clearly had the overall shape, plumage, and color of a loon in winter (non-breeding). It was small as loons go, being about the same size as closely adjacent Western Grebes.The most striking feature, even at a distance w/o binoculars, was the gleaming white throat and face. The back of the neck was very light gray, which blended imperceptibly with the white throat. There was no dark line separating

throat + nape (as in Pacific Loon) and no white
 Description (continued): indentation into the darker nape (as in Common Loon)
 The white extended up onto the cheeks, extending above the eye, so that
 through the scope, the eye was a dark dot in a white field. The
 crown and upper part of the face were darker than the nape, and sharply
 separated from the white of the cheeks. The back was medium dark
 and I thought I could see some small white dots on it. It did not
 have the "checkboard" appearance of the backs of other species. The bill was
 small, bluish gray & upturned. The legs and feet were bluish gray.
 Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery,
 (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):

Silent

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:

Large reservoir on plains adjacent to foothills,

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species? This bird was too small to be
 Common or Yellow-billed, as well as not having the heavy bills or facial/neck pattern
 of those species. This bird had conspicuous white on the face above and in front of
 the eye. The Pacific Loon in all plumages and ages is said to have dark
 around the eye, and the only loon species so marked. This bird's bill was small
 upturned, and the bird swam with the bill and head angled upward, unlike Pacific's

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?
 I have seen dozens of winter-plumage Red-throated Loons up close in Calif.,
 and I have correctly identified & reported one in Colorado. I have seen many
 Common Loons and Pacific Loons in winter plumage in California, plus some
 in Colorado. I have seen two Yellow-billed Loons in winter plumage in Colorado.
 I have not seen an Arctic Loon. In early Dec, 1991, four species of loon were on
 Chatfield Reservoir at one time, an excellent chance to study the differences. I saw all 4
 Even so, loons are challenging. List books, illustration, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how
 this influenced your identification:

Peterson's Western Birds, 3rd ed.

a) At time of observation: National Geographic Field Guide to Birds of North America 2nd ed.

Advanced Birding, by Kenn Kauffman

b) After observation: Seabirds, by Peter Harrison

This report was written from reports made during _____, after
 observation _____, from memory X

Date and time report was written: April 9, 1993 - evening

Reporting observer: J.B. Hayes

Signature: J.B. Hayes

Address: 1517 W. Briarwood Ave. Littleton, CO 80120

303-798-968

All reports will be maintained permanently at the address below:

Return to: CURATOR, DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS
 DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
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