

1997-4
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ACCEPTED 7-2

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

CFO-ORC FILE # _____

rec'd 6-10-97 ✓

PHOTOS

NEW STATE RECORD ☐

UNUSUAL RECORD ☐

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

Species: Red-throated Loon | Gavia stellata
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)

Date(s): 10 May 1997

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: immature

Locality: west of jct SR 71 / Rd W Elevation: 4175

Nearest town: Snyder County: Morgan

Time(s) observed: 6:30 - 7 PM

Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): About 30 minutes

Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

Joc Wammoser 970/223-2187

Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers)

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):
Good light from the west. we were originally looking into sun then
swam back to the west of the bird, then bird seen in full sun.
Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 60X Bushnell Scope, 8x42 binoc (Surf)

Distance, and how measured: 40 → 75 yards

If photographed, type of equipment and film: 100-300 Tokina Zoom on Minolta SRT-III body

Who else photographed the bird? 200 Kodacolor Gold slide film

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

Bird was seen swimming actively on small, shallow artificial pond. Bird occasionally dove. Primarily it kept swimming from the middle of the pond to its SW corner then it flew out to the middle, swam back to SW, flew to middle, swam back to SW, flew off to the east & out of sight.

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 observe in the field:

Small loon, very small head, small bill (held somewhat tilted upward). Cap & back of neck uniform even gray. Back appeared mostly even gray (medium) but scope revealed smallish spots evenly distributed. No chin strap. Neck in side view showed two-tone: dark to rear, light (bright white) to the front. Demarcation between the two tones "fuzzy". Bill color gray (not yellow or orange as in *Acramorphus gieskei*). (see photos) Line between dark & light relatively straight (no obvious "neck cuts"). At the lower part of the neck the dark area did come forward a bit.





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Red-throated Loon
Snyder, CO
10 May 1997
D. Leatherman