

CFO-ORC-FILE# _____

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS SIGHT RECORD FORMRed 1/6/99
ACCEPT 6-1

Results: _____

Species: Red-throated Loon
(Gavia stellata)**Date:** 11/27/99**Number of birds seen:** 1**Sex:** unknown**Plumage:** Basic (or juvenile)**Locality:** Jumbo Reservoir, near the west end**Elevation:****Nearest Town:** Crook**County:** Logan (possibly Sedgwick at times)**Time Observed:** 11:00 am.**Duration of observation:** off and on for 2 hours**Other observers with you:** none**Other observers who saw the bird independently:** none that I know of**Light conditions:** hazy sunlight and light overcast**Optical equipment:** Leica 10X42 trinovid binoculars, bushnell sentry 18-36X50 spotting scope**Distance from bird:** ~200 meters at closest**Describe the bird's behavior:** The bird was foraging, initially near the north shore, later in the middle and near the south shore. The bird spent very little time on the surface while actively foraging, but did spend some time resting. It very rarely associated with the large flocks of Canada Geese and Mallards that were present, but did forage near some Western Grebes for a time.**Describe the bird:** A small loon, the size of a Western Grebe, with a slightly heavier head and neck than the grebes, but still slender for a loon. The bill appeared short, slender, pale grayish in color. The face was pale gray, fading to white on cheek, the area around the eye was pale gray. The crown was slightly darker blue-gray, but the only sharp demarcation was the area directly above the bill, where a whitish strip contrasted with the gray crown. The throat was white, fading to off-white on the side of the neck, and then to a medium blue-gray on the nape, similar to the crown. The nape was the darkest portion of the neck, but with no sharp contrast. The back was the same color as the nape, with no visible barring. The flanks often appeared whitish. The bird sometimes sat with the head and bill tilted upwards, at other times held level.**Describe the bird's song and call if heard:** None heard.**Describe the habitat in which you found the bird:** Jumbo Reservoir is a large reservoir surrounded by agricultural and pastureland, with a screen of cottonwood and willow along the north shore. There were numerous people along both the north and the south shore, hunting Mallards and Canada Geese, both of which were abundant on the lake.**How did you eliminate similarly appearing species:** Common Loon by the pale overall color, and the slender bill, head, and neck, with no contrast evident on the neck. Yellow-billed Loon by the grayish color, and the slender head, neck, and bill. Pacific or Arctic Loons by the lack of sharp contrast on the side of the neck, and the fact that the nape was the darkest part of the head or neck. Also by the paler color on the back. Large grebes by the heavier head, neck, and bill, and the lack of contrast along the side of the neck.**What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:** I have observed perhaps 15 Red-throated Loons in basic, alternate, and juvenile plumages, in Washington state and Illinois. Over the last 15 months, I have observed perhaps 10-15 Pacific Loons here in Colorado. I have observed numerous Common Loons in various plumages, and have seen two Yellow-billed Loons in basic plumages, one at very close range.**List books if they helped in your identification:** After the fact, I checked the Nat. Geographic, third edition, to attempt to determine the age of the bird. This report was written primarily from notes taken at the time.**Reporting Observer:** Paul SweetSignature Paul Sweet**Address:** 3113 Sharps St.,
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