

Red-throated Loon

CA 1893

Franklin Co., IA

F. H. Shoemaker

Shoemaker 1896, Anderson 1907

Record Number: 81-KU
Classification: NA

REFERENCES

Shoemaker, F.H. 1896. Seabirds that visit Iowa. Iowa
Ornithologist 2:31-34.

Anderson 1907

DuMont 1933

VOTE (1981): 6-IV, 1-V

IV, sounds likely, but no description.

IV, flock bothers me. Specimen not extant, not checked by
Anderson or DuMont.

III/IV, Acceptable in that he differentiated from Common Loon
and compared specimens with description. Reputation of Shoemaker?

Shoemaker, F. H. 1896. Sea birds that visit Iowa. Iowa Ornithologist 2:31-34

The family Urinatoridae is represented by two species: the Loon proper, *Urinator imber*, and its ally, the Red-throated Loon. The former is the more common variety, inasmuch as it nests in the north and appears regularly during migrations, while the latter variety, the Red-throat-

ed Loon, is a distinctively northern species, and appears only during the winter, very irregularly. Three years ago I saw a flock of Red-throated Loons on a small lake in Franklin county. and after a long detour and much careful crawling in a layer of snow and mud, succeeded in approaching near enough to secure two of the birds at one shot. This is the only time I have found loons of either variety in a flock; the class is not gregarious and I would not be convinced of the identity until I had the birds where I could compare with description.

8. (10). *Gavia lummic* (Gunn). Red-throated Loon.

Like the preceding species, the Red-throated Loon is rare in Iowa. It is listed by J. A. Allen (*White's Geol. of Iowa*, 1870). Kunliem and Hollister give the species as "a regular and common resident on Lake Michigan in winter. . . . On the larger inland lakes and ponds and streams it is seldom seen in spring, but occurs sparingly in October and November, or until the ice forms" (*Bds. of Wis.*, 1903, 7). There are two Nebraska records, both males, taken on the Missouri near Omaha, one Sept. 28, 1894, another April 6, 1897, reported by I. S. Trostler (*Rev. Bds. Neb.*, 1904, 7).

County records: Blackhawk—"rare winter or fall visitor" (Peck). Franklin—"three years ago saw a flock on a small lake in Franklin county and secured two at one shot" (*"Sea Birds that Visit Iowa," Iowa Orn.*, ii, 2, 1896, 32). Jackson—"very rare" (H. J. Giddings). Polk—"I mounted one which must have been a straggler. Although the party who shot it said there were others, he might have been mistaken" (Johnson).

Anderson 1907
p 152

DuMont 1933
pp 17-18

Gavia stellata (Pontoppidan). Red-throated Loon

Very rare migrant. Anderson (1907) gives the following: "There are two Nebraska records, both males, taken on the Missouri near Omaha, one Sept. 28, 1894, another April 6, 1897, reported by I. S. Trostler (Rev. Bds. Neb., 1904, 7).

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Morton E. Peck, October 12, 1932, wrote that he had never seen the Red-throated Loon in Iowa. H. J. Giddings, in a letter, October 11, 1932 said: "I have never had a specimen of Red-throated Loon."

Widmann (1907) lists the two Nebraska records and adds: "Mr. W. E. Praeger writes me that there is a mounted specimen in Keokuk said to have been shot on the Des Moines River near Ottumwa, Ia." In a letter October 26, 1932, Praeger said: "I think the record of the Red-throated Diver is good. I saw the bird but had to depend on the statement of the owner of the specimen that it was obtained near Ottumwa."

Several recent reports of the Red-throated Loon at Carter Lake, Pottawattamie County,⁹ Iowa, are contained in the monthly Letter of Information, edited by Myron H. Swenk, Secretary and Treasurer of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union. One observed April 17 and 27, 1929 by Robert Overing. One in winter plumage was seen on April 22, 1930 by Mr. and Mrs. Overing. Five seen September 22 and 23, 1930 by Mary Ellsworth and L. O. Horsky.

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