

Red-throated Loon

Record Number: 81-KY

28 Apr 1873

Classification: NA

Des Moines River near Ottumwa, Wapello Co., IA

Heiser

DuMont 1933, 1935

REFERENCES

DuMont 1933

DuMont, P.A. 1935. Additional Iowa species of birds substantiated by specimens. Wilson Bull. 47:205-208.

Records Committee: IBL 64:70

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Tom Kent to Records Committee, 13 Sep 1993

VOTE (1981): 3-I, 2-II, 2-III

I, assuming specimen still exists, otherwise II.

III, Identity OK because DuMont saw it. Data complete but secondhand, so could be IV.

II, because specimen not extant, otherwise I.

I, confirmed by DuMont.

II, Although specimen is not available (or is it?), DuMont has authenticated it.

III, Acceptable as a sight record (reputation of DuMont) -- does the specimen exist? If so, I-S.

REVOTE (1993): 3 A-S, 4 NA

A-S, I accept DuMont.

NA, Specimen is not extant. Authority who did see specimen did not write description or give measurements. This record is now just hearsay.

A-D, Although details are sketchy and second-hand, some old records necessitate a good dose of faith.

13 September 1993

To: IOU Records Committee

From: Tom Kent

Re: Request for reconsideration of record

Record: 81-KY Red-throated Loon

Reason for request: A specimen seen by Du^MPont, but no description.

Comment: Compare with other records which are entirely based on an authority having seen the bird or specimen. Also, the specimen data is second hand, and obtained many years after the date of the specimen.

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).

"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)."

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,⁶ 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.

DuMont, P. A. 1935. Additional Iowa species of birds substantiated by specimens. Wilson Bull 47:205-208

RED-THROATED LOON. *Gavia stellata*. The mounted specimen reported as being in Keokuk and taken on the Des Moines River near Ottumwa, Iowa, has been found in the collection of mounted birds in the Keokuk High School. This specimen was examined by the writer on May 10, 1934. Mr. E. H. Purcell of Keokuk, in checking the data, wrote that this bird, a male in winter plumage, was taken by Heiser on April 23, 1873.