

Records Committee, Iowa Ornithologists' Union

Printed: 11/20/00

Pacific Loon

21 Nov 1995

L. Icaria, Adams Co., IA

\*Stephen J. Dinsmore

IBL 66:17, 95

Record Number: 95-34

Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Stephen J. Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames 50014 [3/24/96]

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 66:17

Records Committee: IBL 66:95

VOTE: 7 A-D

95-34

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species: Pacific Loon  
Number: 1 basic plumage  
Location: Lake Icaria, Adams Co.  
Habitat: large lake  
Date: 21 November 1995  
Time: 4:20-4:45 p.m.  
Observer: Stephen J. Dinsmore 4024 Arkansas Dr. Ames, IA 50014  
Others who saw bird: William R. Clark (Ames)

Description of bird(s): I was scanning the west end of the lake when I noticed three loons swimming together. One of them was clearly different. This bird was slightly smaller, but was markedly different in other ways. The bill was much stouter, shorter, and black. The neck pattern was very clean cut: foreneck white, forehead, crown, and back of neck black and separated from the foreneck by a thin darker line. The bird also had a thin dark line across the middle of the throat (a chinstrap). The mantle and wings were black, contrasting with the slightly paler head and neck. The lack of any pale markings on the upperparts seemed to indicate the bird was an adult in basic plumage.

Similar species and how eliminated: The size, neck pattern, bill shape, and chinstrap eliminate other species of loons.

Viewing conditions and equipment: Viewing conditions were excellent with the sun behind us. Estimated viewing distance was 150m. I used a 20-60x spotting scope.

Previous experience with species: I have seen numerous Pacific Loons in Iowa, plus hundreds in California.

References consulted: none

How long before field notes made: none made

How long before this form completed: written 3 December 1995