

Pacific Loon 1
23 Oct 1990
Little Wall L., Hamilton Co., IA
S. Dinsmore
IBL 61:17, 62:21

Record Number: 90-24
Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Stephen J. Dinsmore

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 61:17
Records Committee: IBL 62:21

VOTE: 7 A-D

A-D: Acceptable document.

A-D: Well done and conclusive.

A-D: Combination of size, bill length, and sharp demarcation of neck and throat adequate to support identification of Pacific Loon. This is never quite as satisfying if the chin strap is absent.

A-D: Good description.

A-D: Good description of Pacific Loon.

A-D: Good description of key marks for Pacific Loon.

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species: Pacific Loon

Number: 1

Date: 23 Oct 1990

Time: 11:06-11:45 a.m.

Location: Little Wall L., Hamilton Co.

Observer(s): Stephen J. Dinsmore 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames

Other observer(s):

Description of bird(s): There were two loons on the lake when I arrived at 11 a.m. I immediately noticed that one loon was smaller. This smaller loon was dark gray across the back and wings, slightly darker than the Common Loon it was with. The most striking feature was the neck pattern; white front of neck, light gray crown, nape, and back of the neck, the two colors separated by a thin black line running up each side of the neck. The whole neck pattern was much different and cleaner looking than the Common Loon. The bill was dark, short, and straight. It was about 1/3 shorter than the bill of the Common Loon and had a stockier appearance. Head posture of the two loons was not noticeably different.

Similar species and how eliminated: Common Loon eliminated above. Red-throated Loon eliminated by the dark back, neck pattern, and bill size and shape.

Optical equipment and viewing conditions: Viewing conditions were very good with the sun behind me. Estimated viewing distance was 150 yards. I used a Bushnell 20-45x spotting scope.

References consulted: NGS Field Guide to the Birds of North America

Previous experience with species: I have seen several Pacific Loons in Iowa in recent years, all in fall. I am also very familiar with both Common and Red-throated loons.

How long before field notes written? brief notes written during sighting

How long before this form completed? 7 hours