

Records Committee, Iowa Ornithologists' Union

Printed: 11/24/00

Pacific Loon

22 Nov 1997

Saylorville Reservoir, Polk Co., IA

*Bery Engebretsen

IBL 68:10, 85

Record Number: 97-36

Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Bery Engebretsen, 12825 NW 127th Ct, DesMoines 50325 [2/15/98]

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 68:10

Records Committee: IBL 68:85

VOTE: 7 A-D

A-D, I'm not clear on the statement eliminating Red-throated Loon, but the description of bill and neck pattern seem sufficient for acceptance.

A-D, Although somewhat subjective, I think the key features of size, bill, and pattern of white and dark are sufficient.

A-D, Key features noted; observer studied bird twice to be sure.

DOCUMENTATION FORM
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

97-36

What species? Pacific Loon How many? 1 (?2)

Location? Say Courville

Type of Habitat? Big Lake

When? date(s): 11/22/97 (11/21/97) time: 0815 to 0845

Who? your name and address: Benny Engstrom DSM, IA

Others with you: —

Others before or after you: —

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.
Smallish loon first noted evening of 11/21 in fading light. Returned 11/22 AM. Slim, straight bill & rounded head, not particularly upturned. Was previously revealing white underside. Top of head, back of neck & back seemed to be uniformly dark gray. Light was poor; a second bird was a hundred yards or so to the north.

I returned the following morning and found what appeared to be same bird off the dam. In the morning light I could see that the white of the chin and ^{straight} face stopped just below the eye. I also noted a slightly darker line separating the white forehead from the gray back of the neck. I could not see a chin strap, nor any spotting on the back.

I did not see a second bird

Similar species; how eliminated:

A small common loon should have irregular line between front of back of neck. Also white of face should go above eye
Arctic loon - not expected
R-t loon - also with white above eye

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? —
If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), optical equipment.
200 yds good light from behind me
30x

Previous experience with species and similar ones:
'85, '94

References and persons consulted before writing description: NG

How long before field notes made? in field this form completed? evening

Send completed form to Field Reports or CBC editor (address on back cover of Iowa Bird Life).