

Pacific Loon

2 Aug 1997

Spirit Lake, Dickinson Co., IA

\*Ed Thelen, \*Lee A. Schoenewe

P-0568, IBL 68:10, 85

Record Number: 97-35

Classification: A-P

DOCUMENTATIONS

Ed Thelen (2 Aug), 15362 250th Ave., Spirit Lake 51360

[2/15/98]

Lee A. Schoenewe (11 Aug), 518 W. 4th St., Spencer 51301

[2/15/98]

PHOTOGRAPH

Ed Thelen, 2 Aug, P-0568

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 68:10

Records Committee: IBL 68:85

VOTE: 7 A-P

A-P, Even the chin stripe is visible.

A-P, Nice photo showing contrast between the two species in head/facial pattern.

A-P, Photo of bird with two Common Loons is beautiful even though slightly out of focus or moved. Size, bill, head color, three-toned neck, and chin stripe all evident. The descriptions match.

A-P, (bird on right, others Common Loons)

97-35



Pacific Loon P-0568  
Spirit L., Dickinson Co., IA  
2 Aug 1997 Ed Thelen



White-winged Dove P-0569  
Fort Dodge, Webster Co., IA  
21 Sep 1997 Diana J. Hultine



DOCUMENTATION FORM  
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

97-35

What species? Pacific Loon How many? 1

Location? West and South Shore of Spirit Lake, Dickinson County

Type of Habitat? Large Natural Lake

When? date(s): 8-2-97 and 8-5-97 time: \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Who? your name and address: Ed Thelen 15362 250th Ave. Spirit Lake, IA  
→ 7:30AM - 8:30AM → 7:30AM - 7:40AM

Others with you: \_\_\_\_\_

Others before or after you: Lee Schoenewe - 8-11-97

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.

On 2 Aug 1997 I observed a Pacific Loon in the company of 2 common Loons. (see photo) I also observed the Pacific Loon on 8-5-97 in front of the spillway on the south shore of Spirit Lake.

It was about 20% smaller than the common Loons. It had a rounded light-colored head, prominent chin-strap and a small straight bill. Its back was dark as was its hindneck which contrasted with the white front of its throat.

Similar species; how eliminated: - straight horizontal bill and chin strap eliminated red-throated Loon  
- smaller size eliminated common Loon.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? NO  
If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), optical equipment.

GOOD 50 yds

Previous experience with species and similar ones: I believe this was the same bird I found this spring on West Okoboji

References and persons consulted before writing description:  
- Lee Schoenewe

How long before field notes made? \_\_\_\_\_ this form completed? month

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

97-35

## DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species How many? PACIFIC LOON - 1

Location? BIG SPIRIT LAKE

Type of habitat? OPEN WATER

When? date(s): 8/11/97 Time: . 3:15 - 4:20 PM

Who? your name and address

LEE A. SCHOENEWE 518 W. 4<sup>th</sup> ST. SPENCER, IA. 51301

Others with you NANCY SCHOENEWE

Others before and after you ED THELEN

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, under tail, legs, feet). Also describe voice and behavior. I WAS FOLLOWING UP ON A REPORT FROM ED THELEN OF A PACIFIC LOON ON BIG SPIRIT LAKE. I SAW A LOON FROM A LONG DISTANCE AND WITH THE SCOPE I COULD SEE THE ROUNDED HEAD SHAPE AND SMALL BILL. I DROVE TO THE WEST SIDE OF THE LAKE AND GOT THE BIRD IN GOOD LIGHT AT ABOUT 100 YDS. I COULD SEE THE LIGHT GRAY CROWN AND NAPE WHICH CONTRASTED WITH THE DARK GRAY THAT RAN FROM THE BILL THRU THE EYE, DOWN THE SIDE OF THE NECK TO THE DARK BACK, AND FORMED A DISTINCT EDGE WITH THE WHITE CHIN, THROAT AND BELLY. AS THE BIRD PREENED, I COULD SEE A DARK CHIN STRAP.

Similar species and how eliminated:

RED THROATED LOON - BLACK THRU EYE + LIGHT GRAY NAPE; COMMON LOON - BILL SIZE, HEAD SHAPE + LIGHT GRAY NAPE

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NO

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: OVERCAST DAYLIGHT; 100 - 400 YDS; 8X40 BINOCULARS  
20X-60X SCOPE

Previous experience with this species and similar ones:

PACIFIC LOON ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS - SPRING 1997 ON W. LAKE OKO BOJI

References and persons consulted before writing description: NONE

How long before field notes made? IMMEDIATELY  
this form completed? 1 HOUR

Mail original form to field editor for this season.