

Red-throated Loon

29 Oct 1997

Clear Lake, Cerro Gordo Co., IA

\*Carolyn J. Fischer

IBL 68:10, 85

Record Number: 97-34

Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Carolyn J. Fischer, 48 Lakeview Ct, Mason City 50401 [2/15/98]

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 68:10

Records Committee: IBL 68:85

VOTE: 7 A-D

A-D, White on side of face should include eye. Maybe this is just semantics, but the exact extent would be hard to see at 300 yards.

A-D, Would have liked a bit more description of back versus head color, but details are adequate to separate from other loons.

A-D, Size, bill, and neck fit. Lack of chin stripe at 300 yards not very useful.

A-D, Salient points (time of occurrence, white around eye, description of bill and neck pattern).

DOCUMENTATION FORM  
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

97-34

What species? Red-throated Loon How many? 1

Location? Clear Lake, Clear Lake, Ia Cerro Gordo Co.

Type of Habitat? large lake

When? date(s): October 29, 1997 time: 10:00<sup>Am</sup> to 10:25<sup>Am</sup>

Who? your name and address: Carolyn J. Fischer, 48 Lakeview Ct.  
Mason City, Ia

Others with you: Pat Hansen, Ventura Hts.

Others before or after you: Could not re-locate

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.

Using a 30X spotting Scope - Small loon in basic plumage, thin bill, looked upturned. White area from under base of the bill, down the neck to waterline - was not real defined, but more of a gradual blending from the front to the grayer back of the head + neck. White area around the face, below the eye - back was dark -

Similar species; how eliminated:

Common loon - smaller loon, bill not heavy, no white indentation mid-neck -

Pacific loon - bill wasn't horizontal, no chin strap, area between front + back of neck was not defined.

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

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

300 yards - good light, 30X Kowa Scope

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

1994 Silver Lake, Worth Co.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

Pat Hansen

How long before field notes made? 5 hrs. this form completed? 5 days

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