

Records Committee, Iowa Ornithologists' Union

Printed: 11/20/00

Pacific Loon

28 Oct 1995

Little Wall L., Hamilton Co., IA

\*Mark Proescholdt

IBL 66:17, 95

Record Number: 95-31

Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Mark Proescholdt, Box 65, Liscomb 50148 [3/24/96]

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 66:17

Records Committee: IBL 66:95

VOTE: 7 A-D

What species? Pacific Loon How many? 1Location? Little Wall Lake - (Hamilton County)Type of habitat? medium-sized lakeWhen? date(s): Oct. 28, 1995 time: 10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. (very approximately)Who? your name and address: Mark Proescholdt, Box 65, Liscomb, Iowa 50148others with you: Russ Widnerothers before or after you: none before, maybe some on Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>

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, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

Russ and I were scoping the birds on the lake and found this bird. It was a small loon that was very low in the water. It wasn't much bigger than the ducks and coots around it. It had a thin neck and a small thin bill that was straight (the mandibles were straight on the bill). It had a definite dividing line on its neck between the white on the throat and the dark area of the crown and nape. Its dark head and back appeared about the same color. Its eye appeared in the dark area of the crown. No irregular indentations appeared <sup>on</sup> the line of its neck. Did not see

Similar species and how eliminated: a chin strap but it could have had one.

A Common Loon is much bigger, has a large and bulky bill, and has indentations on its neck and white around its eye. A Red-throated Loon has upturned bill mandibles and lacks distinct dividing area on neck.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NO

If yes, explain: :

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

Mostly cloudy, some sun at our sides, good viewing. Distance estimated at 120± yards away. 22X Scope and Russ used his KOWA scope.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

Have seen quite a few winter Pacific Loons in Iowa and Oregon coast.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

K. Kaufman's Advanced Birding, Natl. Geog. Birds of N. America

How long before field notes made? 12:30 p.m. this form completed? NOV. 1, 1995

on OCT. 28, 1995