

DOCUMENTATION FORM
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

What species? Red-Throated Loon How many? 1

Location? Clear Lake, Iowa - on lake north side

Type of Habitat? water

When? date(s): Apr. 20-99 time: 5:05 to 5:20 AM

Who? your name and address: Rita Goranson
115 Lakeview Dr.
Mason City, IA 50401

Others with you: _____

Others before or after you: Carolyn Fischer, Jan Walter

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.

large bird, diving in water. Head held up, bill pointing upwards. thin bill, gray, crown of head, nape + neck back all medium gray with very white throat, neck, into breast area. White clear up into cheek of face and up to eye, and around face and down to neck

Back medium gray.



Similar species; how eliminated: Common loons were out further but darker around face and around neck, bill larger + darker. *with dark*

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

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), optical equipment.
100 ft or so, cloudy, 30 power wide angle lens

Previous experience with species and similar ones:
I have seen lots of common loons, this is only the second time for a red throated loon.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

How long before field notes made? immediately this form completed? 2nd day, apr 22-99

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