

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Pacific Loon How many? 1Location? Hallett's Quarry - north of Ames - (Story County)Type of habitat? Large gravel pit filled with waterWhen? date(s): May 12, 1999 time: 1:50 p.m. to 2:20 p.m.Who? your name and address: Mark Proescholdt, Box 65, Liscomb, Iowa 50148others with you: Beth Proescholdtothers before or after you: Hank Zaletel, Jim Dinsmore, Tom Kent, Russ Widner, others

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.

This loon was in basic plumage. It was diving a lot. It was a small loon with a small bill, and the bill had straight mandibles. It had a pronounced chin strap and was grayish on the top and back of the head. There was a sharp demarcation line on the side of the neck between dark and white. It had a very white neck.

Similar species and how eliminated: The chin strap, small size and small bill, and the sharp demarcation line on the side of the neck eliminate Common, Red-throated, and Yellow-Billed Loons. No white flank marks eliminate Arctic Loon.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain: :

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

Cloudy, very windy, cold. Good viewing, 100-120 yards estimated.
8X30 Binocs and 22x scope.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

Have seen many Pacific loons in Iowa and along Oregon coast.

References and persons consulted before writing description: NoneHow long before field notes made? May 12 - this form completed? May 31, 1999

(that afternoon
or that
evening)