DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species Pacific Loon **How many?** one

Location? Hallett's Quarry, n. edge of Ames, Story County

Type of habitat? gravel pit

When? date(s): 8 May 1999- **Time:** first seen 8 a.m, also seen arpimd 1:15-1:45 p.m and again 7 a.m., 10 May, last seen 17 May

Who? Jim Dinsmore

Others with you Kevin and Roseann Healy, Wolf Oesterreich

Others before or after you Hank Zaletel, Pam and Reid Allen, others

Describe the bird(s) Obviously loon, appeared similar in size to Common Loon when seen side by side. Mostly dark brown above and white below except as follows:

1. Distinct dark and virtually complete chin strip seen well.
2. Back of head and upper neck appeared silvery in color when seen in good light. When compared with Common Loon, that area clearly lighter colored than in Common Loon.
3. White area extended up on side of head behind but not including the eye area. White/dark line on side of neck clearly demarked and no indentation of white into dark areas.
4. Bill appeared smaller than that of Common Loon; also upper half of bill was dark colored.

Similar species and how eliminated:

Common Loon seen next to it with side-by-side comparison.

1. No chin stripe on this bird
2. Back of head and neck uniformly dark colored
3. White on side of head extended further forward and included the eye. Also there was a white "bump" that extended back into dark color of side of neck.
4. Bill seemed darker than other bird and was all light colored.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? no

Viewing conditions: several hundred yards away, good light, no real glare off water, used spotting scope up to 45 X

Previous experience have seen Pacific Loon before but limited

References & persons consulted before writing description: Noted chin stripe before looked at field guide. Looked at Peterson and NGS field guides in field, advanced birding guide later.

How long before field notes made? Notes taken in field while viewing bird. Documentation written on 10 May after seeing bird for third time.