

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Pacific Loon How many? 1
 Location? Red Rock Reservoir - Marion County
 Type of habitat? Big reservoir just above the dam on north side
 When? date(s): Oct. 31, 1998 time: approx. 2:45 p.m. to 3:16 p.m.
 Who? your name and address: Mark Proescholdt, Box 65, Liscomb, Iowa 50148
 others with you: none
 others before or after you: Chuck Fuller

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.

Chuck Fuller found this bird and told me about it as we looked at the gulls below the dam.

This was a small, slender loon with a small dark bill with straight mandibles on the bill. The neck was unpatterned. There was a sharp vertical division on the neck between the light and dark areas. There was still some speckling on its back from its summer plumage. The eye was included in the dark area of the plumage. There was no white area above the eye or in front of the eye. It was dark on the back of neck and top of the head. It had a white throat and inside of the neck. It was diving all the time I was watching.

Similar species and how eliminated: A Common Loon is bigger with a big bill, has light areas above and in front of eye, and a jagged heavily patterned side of the neck. Red-throated loon has upturned bill mandibles and the division between dark and light on the neck is not nearly as defined as in a Pacific 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, good visibility, distances estimated at 120-150 yards, 8x30 Binocs,
 22x Scope

Previous experience with species and similar ones:
 Have seen many in Iowa and Oregon.

References and persons consulted before writing description:
 Natl. Geog. guide with Kenn Kaufman's Advanced Birding notes in my guide.

How long before field notes made? while viewing this form completed? Nov. 1, 1998