

## DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Pacific Loon How many? 1Location? Red Rock Reservoir - (Marion County) - Whitebreast AreaType of habitat? Large reservoirWhen? date(s): Nov. 6, 1999 time: 2:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. approximatelyWho? your name and address: Mark Proescholdt, Box 65, Liscomb, Iowa 50148others with you: Beth Proescholdtothers before or after you: unknown - reported earlier on Birdline

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.

We saw this very small loon with a small dark bill. It was diving a lot. Its body length was a little longer than a Bonaparte's Gull's body length on the water beside it. There were many Common Loons in the area and it was much smaller than Common Loons -  $\frac{1}{2}$  the size of Common Loons approximately. It had a white throat, a dark back, and a dark gray head and back of the head. There was a sharp dividing line on its neck between the light and dark colors on neck.

Similar species and how eliminated: Common Loons have massive bills, are much larger, and have a jagged look to their sides of the neck between dark and light colors. Red-throated Loons are paler in color and do not have that sharp dividing line on its neck but a more gradual merging of colors.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NO

If yes, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:  
Sun behind us - good viewing, 150-250 yards estimated.22x Scope.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

Have seen quite a few Pacific and Red-thr. Loons in Iowa and along U.S. coasts  
References and persons consulted before writing description: and lots of Common Loons.How long before field notes made? 5:00 p.m. on this form completed? Nov. 10, 1999  
Nov. 7, 1999