

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species How many? RED-THROATED LOON - 1

Location? SPIRIT LAKE, DICKINSON COUNTY

Type of habitat? OPEN WATER

When? date(s): 6/28/99 Time: 4:35 PM - 4:55 PM

Who? your name and address LEE A SCHOENEWE
518 W. 4th ST SPENCER, IA 51301

Others with you NONE

Others before and after you

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, under tail, legs, feet). Also describe voice and behavior. AS I WAS DRIVING ALONG THE LAKESHORE AND NOTICED A BIRD LOW IN THE WATER ABOUT 10 YARDS OFFSHORE. IN THE BINOCULARS I COULD SEE THE DARK BACK, LONG NECK AND STILETTO BILL OF A LOON. THE BILL WAS GRAY AND UPTURNED, SMALLER THAN A COMMON LOON. THE EYE WAS DARK RED AND SURROUNDED BY THE WHITE OF THE FACE AND NECK. THE CROWN AND NAPE WERE BROWNISH WITH A SPECKLING EFFECT INTO THE WHITE ON THE SIDE OF THE NECK. THE BODY WAS DARK WITH DEFINITE WHITE SPECKLING. THE BIRD SURFACED 5 OR 6 TIMES AND STAYED LOW AND PRONE TO THE WATER EACH TIME.

Similar species and how eliminated:

COMMON LOON + PACIFIC LOON - SIZE, UPTURNED BILL + BROWNISH, SPECKLED NECK

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification?

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: AFTERNOON SUN; 50-100 YDS; 8X40 BINOCULARS
20X-60X SCOPE

Previous experience with this species and similar ones:

COMMON LOONS ANNUALLY AND PACIFIC LOON IN 1997

References and persons consulted before writing description:
NAT'L GEOGRAPHIC FIELD GUIDE; PETERSON FIELD GUIDE

How long before field notes made? IMMEDIATELY

this form completed? 3 HOURS

Mail original form to field editor for this season.