

Species: PACIFIC LOON  
(Vernacular name)

GAVIA PACIFICA  
(Scientific name)

If you watch birds solely for your own enjoyment, a written description of your observations is unnecessary. But, if you have seen something unusual, and would like to share this with others, a written description is essential. Compilers of regional bird lists must insist that their records be scientifically sound; future bird students--those studying occurrences 50 years from now--must have a written record on which to depend. By providing the verifying written description, you are employing a basic rule of the scientific method.

We recognize that experienced field observers can provide important and reliable records, if supported by an adequate verifying description. Thus this request is an effort to perpetuate your record by obtaining concrete evidence which may be permanently preserved for examination by others in the future. This procedure is required for every extraordinary observation, irrespective of the observer.

Date (s): OCTOBER 11 TO NOVEMBER 22 <sup>1990</sup> Time Bird Seen: VARIOUS TIMES DURING to DAY

Locality: FISH SPRINGS NWR.  
JUAB COUNTY, UTAH  
Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: 10 X 40 SIMMONS BINOCULARS ; 15-60 X DISCOVERER SPOTTING SCOP

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: CANON F-1, 300 mm ZOOM

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: UNKNOWN Plumage: A IMMATURE

Light conditions: SUNNY TO CLOUDY

Distance from bird, and how measured: 50' AND UP ; ESTIMATED

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

TYPICAL LOON BEHAVIOR ; OBSERVED SWIMMING, DIVING, PREENING ; USUALLY BY ITSELF THOUGH OCCASSIONALLY IN/NEAR FLOCK OF COOTS. FAIRLY APPROACHABLE FROM VEHICLE - GETTING MORE TOLERANT THE LONGER IT STAYED

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

OPEN WATER IMPOUNDMENT - MAILLARD UNIT SURROUNDED BY DIKES ; VEGETATION SURROUNDING AREA - SALTERA

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. Emphasize particularly the field marks used to identify the bird, but include a complete description of the bird. Include size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern; details on shape or size of bill, wings, and tail. (Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions is not enough.) Describe what you actually saw in the field.

LOON SHAPE, LESS BULKY LOOKING THAN A COMMON LOON WITH THINNER BILL. BILL HELD HORIZONTALLY. HEAD AND NAPE WERE SILVERY GRAY WITH DISTINCT BLACK BORDER SEPARATING THIS FROM THE WHITE FACE AND NECK. SLIGHT HINT OF CHIN STRAP. THOUGH THIS WAS HARD TO SEE. SLIGHTLY DARKER WASH ON BREAST AT WATERLINE WAS SEEN ON OCCASION. BACK WAS DARK GRAY WITH LIGHT EDGES TO FEATHERS, SIMILAR TO IMMATURE PLUMAGE OF BOOBS. SIDES LIGHTER GRAY THAN BACK.

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

NONE

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

COMMON LOON - SLIMMER BIRD; HEAD AND NECK COLORATION (WITH SILVERY GRAY ~~ON~~ HEAD + NAPE) WITH CLEAN CUT BORDER (BLACK) BETWEEN GRAY AND WHITE FACE + THROAT. SLIM BILL

ARCTIC LOON - LACK OF WHITE ON FLANKS; BIRD OCCASIONALLY SHOWED WHITE ALONG ENTIRE EDGE (AT WATERLINE) BUT NO DISTINCTLY WHITE FLANKS

RED-THROATED LOON - BILL NOT UPTURNED, HEAD NOT TILTED UPWARD

Prior experience with this and similar species: BLACK BORDER ON FACE + NECK  
HAVE OBSERVED NUMEROUS COMMON + RED-THROATED IN WINTER PLUMAGE ON COASTS CHINSTRAP

HAVE OBSERVED A DOZEN OR SO PACIFIC'S IN WINTER PLUMAGE; NO ARCTIC SEEN

This report was written from notes made during  after  observation; from memory .

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