

APPENDIX V  
UTAH FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS  
UTAH BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

by Nelson Boschen

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE. FOR UTAH BIRD RECORDS CODING ONLY.

Latilong \_\_\_\_\_ Record type \_\_\_\_\_ Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Habitat \_\_\_\_\_ Disposition \_\_\_\_\_ Cx Nos. \_\_\_\_\_




Common Name Common Loon  
 Scientific Name Gavia immer  
 Obs. date Nov. 4, 1991 (+) Time(s) 1455 to 1545  
 Duration of obs. 20 min. in the hand; 30 min. in the river.  
 Distance from bird 3 feet ↑ ; 10 feet to ~ 0.1 mile ↑  
 Light conditions excellent  
 Optical equip. after release, Nikon 9x30 binos  
 Photo equip. a NIKON SLR w/55mm lens + 200ASA Print Film.  
 Notes made at time of sighting \_\_\_\_\_ Date report prepared Nov. 4, 1991  
 Notes made later from memory

Weather at time of this observation.  
clear, sunny, ~ 65°F, wind calm  
 Prior weather and number of days since change  
The previous day was often overcast & always windy, w/precip. in the mountains.  
 Locality Moab, UT  
 Latilong block number 18

Enter number of birds in each category.	GENDER(S)		AGES(S)		PLUMAGE(S)		PHOTO(S)
	Males	Females	Adults	Juv. (Imm)	Breeding	Transition	Available
Total number observed.					Eclipse	Dark phase	Enclosed
<u>one</u>		<u>♀ or (Imm) 1</u>		<u>1</u>	<u>Winter 1</u>	Light ph.	<u>Yes, if the arrived in time.</u>
	Unknowns		Unknowns		Other		

Description of bird: Size, colors, all field marks OBSERVED. - Unique features of this individual, if any.

This bird was seen to "Fall out of the sky" onto an asphalt (dry) parking lot. Observed hrs today, captured (since it was unable to fly), + at ~ 1400 given to Marilyn Bicking (our local rehaber), whom I met along the Colorado River where, if it proved to be ok we could release it immediately (as Marilyn was told should be done with loons). I held it while she examined it (it seemed perfectly healthy, not at all emaciated + w/no fractures or other injuries except for some superficial scrapes from its asphalt landing), then I quickly photographed it (with her camera, which I wasn't to sure about so I hope the shots came out + released it. In the rush + excitement (during which the bird was very active, + at times calling), + not being familiar w/winter or im. plumage, I primarily noted a few features that seemed to ID it as a Common + little else. So not everything was noted in detail, but I think I may have seen enough key items, as follows.

About twice the mass, + a good 6" longer than, a Mallard. Bill long + pointed, w/the culmen slightly but clearly curving down to tip  + w/a blackish line along the culmen narrowing but extending to the tip or very close, w/the rest of the bill a dull dirty fleshy color. Eye very large, round, + w/a dark iris w/no hint of red or brown. Upper parts a dull medium brown (I don't recall if it had a grayish tint) which was plain on the head + nape, but w/pale gray edging on all or most of the back feathers  creating a uniform scalloped look. The dark on the head wrapped tightly around more than the upper half of the eye + separated from it only by a very narrow + distinct white eye-ring  + covered the entire earpatch area so that there was no distinct earpatch dot. The body underparts were an unmarked white from chin + cheek to tail, as were most or all of the underwing coverts.

On the water: Its body looked half submerged. Its head + bill were held horizontally + the bill again had no illusion of being upturned.

Field marks which were not seen. Why not? The bird was seen same place near dark, but gone the next morning (Nov. 5). Then an im. Com. Loon (no doubt the same bird) was seen on Kens Lake (a large manmade lake stocked w/ fish) on the opposite <sup>(east)</sup> side of Moab on: Nov. 8, Nov. 9, Nov. 17

Variations from expected field marks.

List similar species and describe why or how you eliminated them.

Yellow-billed Loon: Bill was not yellow, had a dark culmen line that extended all the way or very close to the tip; bill did not give the illusion of being upturned; no ear-spot; a uniform cap, ear, + nape color; very large eye w/ a distinct narrow eyering mostly solidly bordered by the dark head color. Head seemed bulkier.

Pacific Loon: Bill was too long + thick; the dark head + nape changed to white on sideneck with no darker feathers between; eye too big + w/ too prominent an eyering; longer than what I expect a Pacific Loon to be.

Red-throated loon: Bill too thick + w/ no "upturned" or straight culmen appearance; dark head feathers surrounded most of the distinct eyering; eye not red or brown; white in cheek area was much smaller; no white dashes or speckling on upper plumage.

Behavior of this bird. Other species seen with this one. Any interaction between birds? While in cage + while holding, it often jabbed w/ its bill. As soon as I gently set it on the water, it dove, though not far, + did so repeatedly within 30 ft of me, at times even surfacing a few feet closer than when going under (water deep with a slow but steady strong current), but slowly went downstream ~ .1 mile where it remained for the remaining 10 minutes continuously diving + preening + flapping wings while standing on its tail, + once even lifting its bill up + calling a single note. Still there when I left. No flight attempts.

Habitat at this location. Adjacent or near by habitat, if significant.

Where it was seen to land: large supermarket asphalt parking lot (dry, not wet).

Describe bird's song or sounds. During its almost continuous struggling while being held, it often called a soft forlorn deep-flute-like call. About 20 min. after release, it gave the same call note once, slightly louder + longer (perhaps 1 sec. long).

Print reporter's name, address, phone number.

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Signature Nelson Boschen

What is your experience with this or similar birds? I've seen (+ heard) only a common loon, 1 to 3 times about 20 years ago.

Corroborating observers not reporting separately.

Marilyn Bicking

Print Name

Signature

Print Name

Signature

Print Name

Signature

Print Name

Signature