

No. 1-2000

UBRC Record

UTAH BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

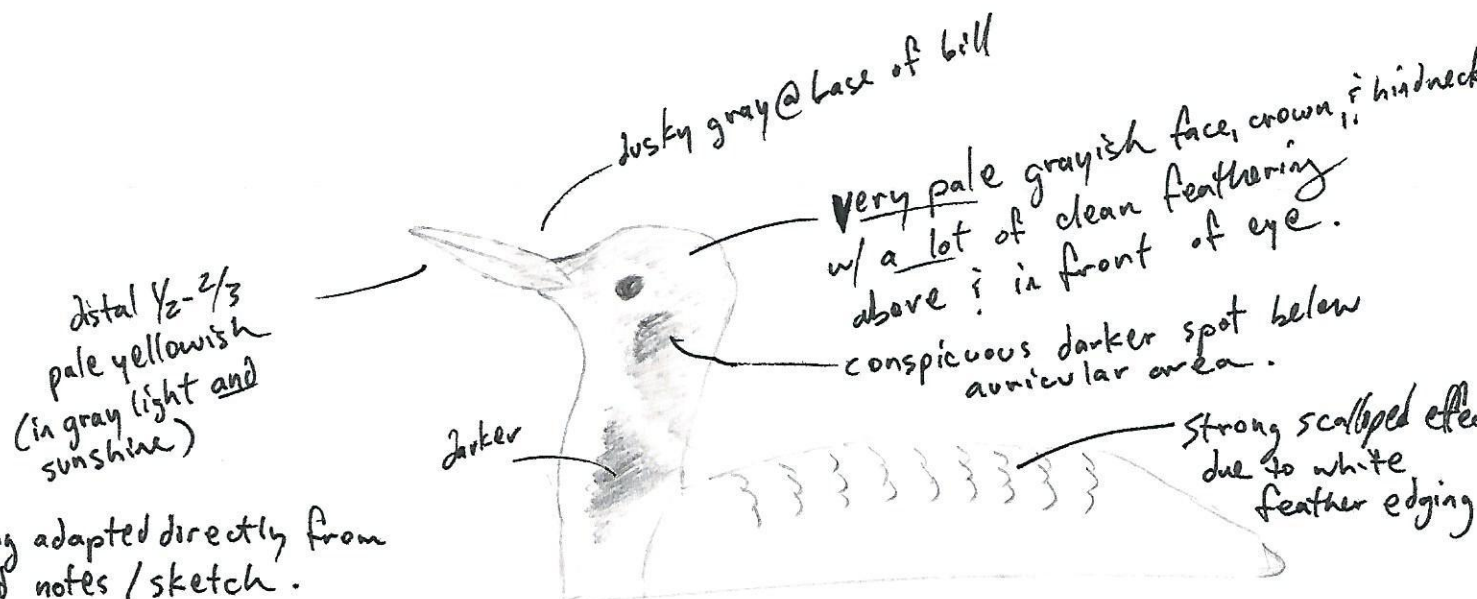
COMMON NAME: Yellow-billed LoonSCIENTIFIC NAME: Gavia adamsiiDATE: 14 January 2000TIME: 10:45-11:15 amLENGTH OF TIME OBSERVED: 0.5 hrNUMBER: 1AGE: 1st winterSEX: unknownLOCATION: Quail Creek Reservoir, near damCOUNTY: Washington

LAT/LONG:

ELEVATION: ~2350 ft.DISTANCE TO BIRD: Initially ~150 m; after ~10 min, bird began foraging and moved farther awayWEATHER: ptly. cloudyLIGHT CONDITIONS: mostly gray w/ intermittent moments of sunshine

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF BIRD:

Large loon w/ broken pattern on neck. Identified as first winter b/c of whitish edges on all scapulars & back feathers - producing a strong scalloped effect. Bird frequently held head at upward angle.



* Drawing adapted directly from field notes / sketch.

SONG OR CALL AND METHOD OF DELIVERY: N/A

BEHAVIOR: Initially sitting on water, not foraging, and occasionally preening / stretching wings. Actively foraging during latter half of observation. When diving, bird lethargically submerged head and neck, and then body simply sunk below surface of water.

HABITAT: open water

SIMILAR SPECIES AND HOW WERE THEY ELIMINATED:

Because of diagnostic throat pattern (and size), only Common Loon considered as alternative candidate. Common Loon eliminated b/c of yellowish distal $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{2}{3}$ of bill, much clean feathering around eye, very pale gray color of head and neck, dark auricular patch.

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND SIMILAR SPECIES:

Very familiar w/ Common Loon; I've seen 1 adult Yellow-billed Loon before, but never an immature.

REFERENCES CONSULTED:

National Geographic Field Guide
Kaufmann's (1990) Advanced Birding

DESCRIPTION FROM: NOTES TAKEN AT TIME OF SIGHTING ☒, NOTES MADE LATER ☐, FROM MEMORY ☐

OBSERVER: Robert Dobbs (also Danny Dobbs)

SIGNATURE: 

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STATE: Utah

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OTHER OBSERVERS WHO INDEPENDENTLY IDENTIFIED THIS BIRD:

DATE PREPARED: 21 January 2000

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL: PHOTO ☐, DRAWING ☒, TAPE ☐, OTHER ☐

RETURN THIS FORM TO: UTAH BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE
P.O. BOX 1042
CEDAR CITY, UT 84721-1042

OR EMAIL TO: uos2@usa.net