





July 31, 98

002A-01 - 1998

Pacific Loon

Song Arm Dam - York County June 13-15, 98

On June 13 Bob & Fred Fisher discovered and identified, in the morning, and then called Haven Lippy who confirmed the sighting. In the afternoon Peter Robinson and I saw the bird but it had to be identified through a scope as heavy clouds soon turned into torrential downpour. Peter riddled tapes before the storm.

June 14 Nick Pucinella took some pictures. It was a rather clear day and I'm sure it attracted many other birders.

June 15 I arrived at 7AM and it wasn't long before the loon appeared in the deep water near the breast of the dam. I managed to get some 35mm shots through my telescope even though it was cloudy. Some were as close as 50 ft. Later in the morning 4 birders from Lancaster Co, Ken Gabler and another man, plus a man from Allentown arrived.

On the 17th a photographer for the York Newspaper couldn't find the bird.

What I saw:

a loon riding on the water with its bill in a straight out position. Head and nape were a light gray. Back and wings black except for

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a large tear drop section of the wing running parallel to the wing. It resembled a dark & white checker board. The neck was dark but the rest of the underside was white. I didn't see any light patch on the flanks close to the water line. The pictures and everyone with me agreed with me on that fact.

Some of what I've written about I'm sure you already know but I still wanted to submit 2 pictures I took.

Al Specie

002A-01-1998

P. O. Box 482
1336 Broadway
Hanover, PA 17331
17 March 1999

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee
C/O Frank Haas
2469 Hammertown Road
Narvon, PA 17555-9726

Dear PORC:

The following belated report is based upon my own notes, made at the time of the observation, offered now in case no one else submitted documentation, or in case the additional documentation is of some benefit.

Species: Pacific Loon (breeding plumage)

Date/Time: 13 June 1998. 2:00PM- 4:00PM.

Location: York County. Long Arm Reservoir, a few miles south of Hanover, PA.

Weather:

Observer: Peter Robinson

Optics. Bausch & Lomb Elite 8x42 binoculars; Celestron C-5 scope at 48X.

Camera: Canon ES 3000 High Resolution 8 MM, with 20X optical zoom lens.

Observation: This loon was a little smaller in body size than a Common Loon, and the straight dark bill was smaller than a Common Loon bill. The top of the head and back of the neck was a light silvery gray color. There was a dark patch on the throat, and black & white vertical stripes on the sides of the neck. There were black vertical stripes on the sides of the chest. There was a black & white checkered patch on each wing. The sides of the bird were dark gray al along the water line. There was no light spot on the rear of the flank at the water line, which eliminated the possibility of the bird being an Arctic Loon.

Comments: The ~~bird was~~ found and identified the morning of 13 June 1998 by Barb & Clyde Fisher, Hanover, PA. The video film that I got is not very good (most is quite distant from about 300 yards, the close up from about 30 yards is quite brief), but hopefully is of some benefit. The bird was seen by many people after I reported it on the PA Birds listserv: It was seen until about 1:00 PM on 15 June 1998.

Sincerely,



Peter Robinson

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Al Speer

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Nick Pulcinella

14 JUNE
1998

Went to Long Arm Res. in York Co to check out a possible Pacific/Arctic Loon reported from there yesterday. The bird was present on the reservoir but difficult to get a sustained look at it. It would spend long periods of time underwater interspersed with 20-30 sec periods above the water, plus, it was constantly changing location. From the initial brief views I had of the bird I could tell it was an Pacific/Arctic type and was able to see that during one episode of staying above the water there was no white along the flank at the water line, thus I'ding the bird as a Pacific. After about an hour the loon finally slowed its activity and stayed above water preening for long periods of time. Viewing distances varied from 50 yds to > 200 yds. Viewing conditions were excellent with a mostly sunny sky with the sun shining down onto the bird; wind was minimal. Other observers included Peter Robinson and 4 others I didn't know.

Pacific Loon - Long Arm Res., York Co PA

optics - 7x42 + 20-60x scope.

viewing distance - 50 - > 200 yds.

weather - partly sunny, Temp 70's, wind calm.

Description - loon roughly the size of a Red-thr Loon. The face and neck were dark (black?), the nape and crown were a shiny silvery gray that seemed to glisten when the sun shined on it. The sides of the neck had thin vertical black & white stripes. The back was black.

Breast and belly were white. The flanks were dark showing no white at the waterline.

The bill was medium length, straight, not upturned or large. It appeared to be a dark gray or black.

The upperwings were dark with white speckling.

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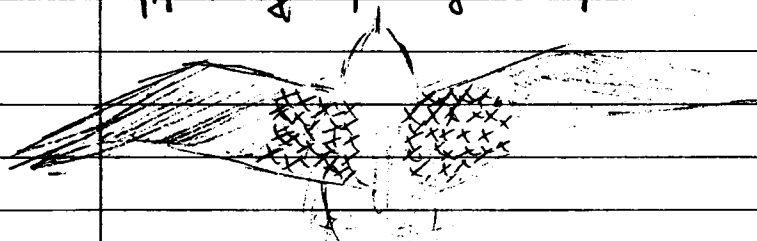
48

14 JUNE
1998
(cont)

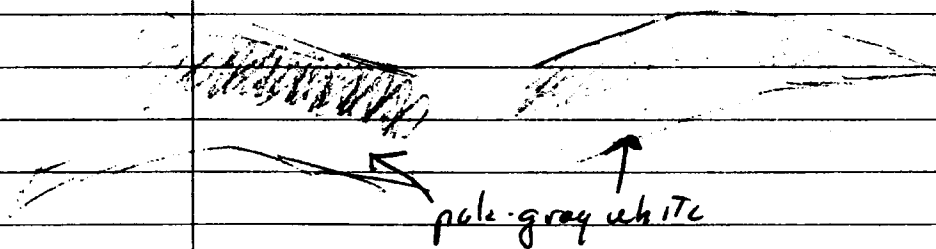
on the scapulars & secondary coverts (?), this wing speckling gave the back a black & white checkered appearance when the wings were closed.

The underwing shows pale-gray-white lining

Upperwing - speckling of scapulars & secondary coverts



underwing



pale-gray-white



Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round One

Species: Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*)

Date of Sighting: 13 June 1998 to 15 June 1998

Location: LONG ARM RESERVOIR

County: YORK

Observer(s): Al Speise, Peter Robinson, Nick Pulcinella

Date of Submission: 1998

Submitted by: Al Speise, Peter Robinson, Nick Pulcinella

Written Description: Yes

Photo: Yes

Specimen: No

Recording: Video

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A				Abstain
					Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
D. Couchman	X							
T. Floyd								X
P. Hess	X							
R. Ickes	X							
J. McWilliams	X							
B. Reid				X				
P. Rodewald	X							
TOTALS	5			1				1
DECISION	X							

Comments: (5)(1)(1)

Signature (Secretary):

Date: 9/18/00