

PENNSYLVANIA ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS COMMITTEE  
210 Welcome Ave. Norwood, PA 19074

28 January 2002

Grier Saunders  
Glengelly Farm  
RD 1  
Honey Brook, PA 19344

Dear Grier,

Thank you for submitting documentation on the Pacific Loon at Strubel Lake on 23 April 1999. After careful review, the Committee has voted not to accept this record.

One member voted in favor of acceptance, but the other six members felt that the amount of detail describing the bird's plumage (we suppose partly because of the poor lighting conditions) was not sufficient to rule out other loon species.

Non-acceptance does not imply that the bird was not a Pacific Loon, but simply that the Committee believes the documentation does not support the identification conclusively.

We hope that our decision in this particular case will not discourage you from submitting reports on any future rarities you find.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name of the signatory.

For the Committee:  
Paul Hess, Chairman

Record No. 002a-01-1999

# Pacific Loon

002A-01-1999

Dear Barry,

This is the data provided by Gene.

April 23, 1999

Observers - Gene Saunders + Bob Cook

Struble Lake in afternoon.

Weather - Light drizzle to mist to none. Wind westerly, very light, shifting to north.

When I first saw the birds it was with more Red-throated Loons. Also on the lake there were ten Common Loons, giving a nice size comparison. The Pacific Loon was very dark and always showed a heavier, thicker-necked look with a straight needle-like bill. The Red-throated Loons (all but one in winter plumage and the one showing a slight throat patch) swam as a group and frequently extended their necks and pointed their bills up. The Pacific Loon occasionally pointed its bill up but never extended its neck. The Pacific Loon when with the Red-throated was heavier looking and appeared slightly larger but hard to say if it was longer. When the Common Loon came near the Pacific Loon there was a considerable size difference.

The light was flat and smoky so not a lot of definition could be made out. However, we could tell that the top of the head and back of the neck were gray.

002A-01-1999

shifted north the Pacific Loon headed towards us,  
and showed a white chest and different cut-off  
to the dark (black) neck. We were convinced of  
its identity based on size, overall color and bill  
shape.

I hope this helps.

Phyllis

## Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

### Voting Ballot - Round One

Species: Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*)

Date of Sighting: 23 April 1999 to 23 April 1999

Location: CHESTER

County: STRUBEL LAKE

Observer(s): Grier Saunders, Bob Cook

Date of Submission: 1999

Submitted by: Phyllis Hurlock

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

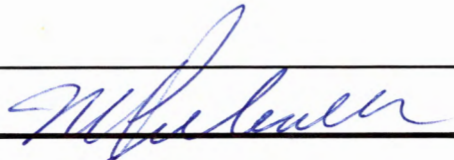
Specimen: No

Recording: No

| Member       | Class I | Class II | Class III | Class IV-A | Recording: No |            |         | Abstain |
|--------------|---------|----------|-----------|------------|---------------|------------|---------|---------|
|              |         |          |           |            | Class IV-B    | Class IV-C | Class V |         |
| G. Armistead |         |          |           |            | X             |            |         |         |
| D. Couchman  |         |          | X         |            |               |            |         |         |
| P. Hess      |         |          |           |            | X             |            |         |         |
| R. Ickes     |         |          |           | X          |               |            |         |         |
| M. Sharp     |         |          |           | X          |               |            |         |         |
| B. Reid      |         |          |           | X          |               |            |         |         |
| P. Rodewald  |         |          |           |            | X             |            |         |         |
| TOTALS       |         |          | 1         | 3          | 3             |            |         |         |
| DECISION     |         |          |           | X          |               |            |         |         |

Comments: 1/6/0

Signature (Secretary):



Date:

12/3/00