

Submission Date	2013-04-23 19:07:31
Observer's Name	J, Eric Witmer
E-mail	hawkowl@ptd.net
Phone	717 314 0623
Observer's Address	Street Address: 230 Mason Drive City: Ephrata State / Province: PA Country: United States
Species (Common Name)	Pacific Loon
Species (Scientific Name)	<i>Gavia pacifica</i>
Number of individuals	1
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	adult in near breeding Plumage
Observation Date and Time	04-23-2013 7:20 AM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	S13827917
County	Lancaster
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Marietta
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Lower Marietta Public Boat Launch off Furnace Rd
Habitat	Susquehanna River
Distance to bird	250+ yards to distant. Loon floated downriver
Viewing conditions	Overcast during observation . No fog,rain or heat shimmer
Optical equipment used	Leica Spotting scope 20-30X w/ 77 mm APO lens
Description	Obvious Loon, appeared smaller and less robust than a Common Loon.The area below the bill and eye through the cheek and down the front of the neck to the front of the breast was dark black. The back of the head,nape and down the back of the neck was a much lighter,unmarked even gray.The breast when facing front was obviously white (light). The back was very dark with numerous thin white lines that ran accross the top of the back from side it side. The bill was was dark and thinner than a Common Loon. The lower mandible angled upward at the tip. The bill was held straight and not on an upward angle as in Red-throated Loon.The head was round appearing and did not have a

	"block headed" appearance as Common Loon. The neck was shorter appearing with a curvature compared to the straighter necked Red-throated Loon or larger Grebes.
Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)	Basically was floating down river, dove twice and was seen preening in the distance.
Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)	discussed in description.
Discussion – anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:	Familiar with Common and Red-throated Loons. Have seen Pacific Loon in the past about 10 years ago.
Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)	yes. I don't believe the bird was a Common or Red-throated Loon. Did not observe white along the flanks suggesting Arctic Loon
After	sibley (was not familiar with the back pattern)
Click to edit	PORC-webform00143