

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2016-01-05 14:54:15
Observer's Name	Glenn Koppel
E-mail	kestrel22@hotmail.com
Phone	703-203-3362
Observer's Address	Street Address: 122 Linsdale Drive City: Butler State / Province: PA Postal / Zip Code: 16001 Country: United States
Names of additional observers	Mary Alice Koeneke
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)	Thought to be in Basic plumage (non-breeding) adult based on drawings of Sibley
Observation Date and Time	12-26-2015 11:00 AM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S26480529
County	Erie
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Erie
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Presque Isle State Park, Niagara Boat Launch
Habitat	Open Water
Distance to bird	500 yards
Viewing conditions	Clear skies, Windy
Optical equipment used	Swarovski 65mm HD Scopes. Eyepieces were 20-60x on one; 25-50x on the other.
Description	Very thin sharply pointed dark bill. Dark black back and back of neck. Back of head appeared grayer than back of neck and back. Back of neck sharply contrasted with the white on front of neck where it met on the side of neck. White patch on side of face occasionally visible when the bird turned.
Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)	Actively preening and occasionally stretching and flapping its wings while on the surface of the bay.

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

Determined not to be a Red-throated Loon although of a similar size because: 1) the overall look of the bird was darker than the Red-throated Loon; 2) the sides of the neck showed a clear delineation of black and white at the "approximate midpoint of the side of the neck whereas, a Red-throated Loon shows mostly white sides to the neck. The Pacific Loon held its pointed bill tilted upwards similar to the Red-throated Loon; however, the bill on the Pacific Loon was dark as compared to a lighter bill on a Red-throated Loon. The bird was also not considered a Common Loon based on its more "delicate", less bulky gizz in comparison to nearby Common Loon; lack of a heavy, light colored bill. Sides of the neck were much whiter and showing a distinct, contrasting aspect as compared to the Common Loon which shows a darker side of the neck

Discussion – anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:

No photo taken as bird was too distant and the winds were too high to hold the camera steady.

Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)

Yes, by size and appearance. Reviewed and discussed field characteristics with other birders present. Have experience with Pacific Loon from California and Washington State

During

Sibley Field Guide

After

Sibley Field Guide; National Geographic Field Guide.

Click to edit

PORC-webform00290



