PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date 2017-12-29 21:34:26 **Observer's Name** Mike Fialkovich E-mail mpfial@verizon.net **Phone** 4127313581 **Observer's Address** 805 BEULAH RD **PITTSBURGH** PA 15235-4209 **United States** Names of additional MICHAEL P. FIALKOVICH observers **Species (Common Name)** Pacific Loon **Species (Scientific Name)** Gavia pacifica Number of individuals Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Basic plumage, age unknown. Sex (if known) **Observation Date and Time** 11-27-2017 5:20 PM Did you submit this sighting Yes to eBird? Link to eBird checklist http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S41305675 County Mercer Location (City, Borough, Maurice Goddard State Park Township) Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, Boat Launch 2 lake, road) **Habitat** Lake Distance to bird 30 yards or more; hard to say. **Viewing conditions** Excellent, clear, sunny with sun behind me; late afternoon light. Optical equipment used Leica Ultravid 10X42 binoculars; Leica spotting scope

Description

Smaller than Common Loon which it was swimming with at one point allowing comparison. Common Loon had a much heavier bill than the pacific, larger overall body size and larger head, thicker neck. Common also showed a sharp point of brown near the base of the neck rather than a clean straight line as in Pacific. This does not show up well on the photos.

Pacific showed dark brown crown and rear of neck, with sharp demarcation from the white chin and front of neck. The remainder of the bird was dark brown. Viewed through a spotting scope I could see pale fringes to the back feathers (especially prior to a dive) that appeared as pale lines across the back. Bill held horizontal unlike Red-throated Loon and plumage much too dark for Red-throated Loon. Red-throated Loon is light gray with white spotting on the back and wings and an isolated eye on a white face. Red-throated also shows pale flanks.

The bill appeared dark above and light below and was thinner than the Common Loon it was swimming with. The bird lacked a pale area on the flanks, eliminating Arctic Loon. I was unable to see a chin strap, likely due to viewing distance, even with the use of a spotting scope.

Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)

Initially feeding, making repeated dives. Later swimming with a Common Loon and then two Common Loons.

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

See description.

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

I've seen Pacific Loons in California and one in Pennsylvania at Presque Isle State Park in 1992.

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

Yes. Other observers found it and I was with one observer. With my experience with this species I was certain of the identification.

After

Sibley Guide to Birds, National Geographic Guide.

Supporting evidence (check all that apply)

Photograph

Upload images, audio, video or drawings





Pacific Loon, Maurice Goddard State Park 11-27-2017 (11).jpg

Pacific Loon, Maurice Goddard State Park 11-27-2017 (4).jpg



Pacific Loon, Maurice Goddard State Park 11-27-2017 (5).jpg



Pacific Loon, Maurice Goddard State Park 11-27-2017 (6).jpg

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PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date 2018-09-27 21:59:44

Observer's Name Michael David

E-mail michaeltdavid@gmail.com

Observer's Address United States

Species (Common Name) Pacific Loon

Species (Scientific Name) Gavia pacifica

Number of individuals

Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Nonbreeding plumage Sex (if known)

Observation Date and Time 11-27-2017 3:30 PM

Did you submit this sighting Yes to eBird?

lake, road)

Link to eBird checklist https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S40778722

County Mercer

Location (City, Borough, New Vernon Township)

Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, M. K. Goddard State Park

GPS coordinates of sighting 41.409776, -80.125008

Habitat open water

Description Large swimming waterbird with slim pointed bill - about Mallard sized. Dark gray on back, back of neck, and crown. White on front of neck, with border between light and dark crisp and straight. Bill straight and gray.

Behavior (be as detailed as Swimming on the surface - don't recall for sure if it was also diving while I was possible about what the bird there. was doing)

Separation from similar From Common Loon by smaller size, smaller straight bill, round head, and species (How you eliminated especially neck pattern with straight sharp border between dark and white areas. others) From Red-throated Loon by larger size, larger bill held straight, plainer back, and more extensive dark on neck and head, including covering eye. From rarer Arctic Loon by lack of white along rear flanks.

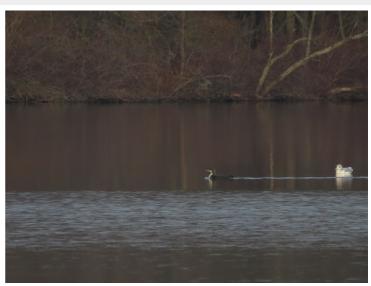
Yes, diagnostic photos taken

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

Upload images, audio, video or drawings







Pacific Loon, Mercer, PA 2.JPG



Pacific Loon, Mercer, PA 3.JPG

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