

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2019-04-23 11:25:56
Observer's Name	Billy Weber
E-mail	robot.stories@gmail.com
Phone	6107378650
Observer's Address	4239 Butternut Dr Walnutport PA 18088 United States
Names of additional observers	Rich Rehrig
Species (Common Name)	Pacific Loon
Species (Scientific Name)	Gavia pacifica
Number of individuals	1
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	nonbreeding adult or immature (other observer's better photos on eBird may resolve)
Observation Date and Time	04-23-2019 8:00 AM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Not yet (please do, eBird is great!)
County	Carbon
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Lehighton
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Beltzville State Park
Habitat	lake
Distance to bird	perhaps several hundred feet
Viewing conditions	sunny, calm, but backlit
Optical equipment used	Swarovski 7x binocular, Kowa 20-60x spotting scope

Description	<p>On the morning of 4/23/19, I got a text from Rich Rehrig about a late Snow Goose on the beach at Beltzville State Park. Arriving at the beach at 8am, I noticed a nonbreeding or immature loon, fairly close in, that looked odd through binoculars. I ran to get my scope and immediately identified the bird as a Pacific Loon, at which point I sprinted back for my phone, notified the local birders, and snapped a few poor backlit images through my scope as the bird dove actively, just a few yards off the north shore of the lake and east of the beach. It had initially been moving rapidly eastward between dives, but it remained just east of the beach for a number of minutes as I observed it from fairly close range. There was a nonbreeding or immature Common Loon nearby but not directly adjacent for size contrast. The Pacific had a dark, weakly-patterned back, a solid dark hind neck and crown, and a strong vertical divide between the dark neck and the white throat (no notch or indentation at all). No face pattern, such as pale around the eye, was visible. An obvious "chinstrap" could be seen with a head-on view; this mark appeared somewhat smudged, more like a distinct narrow dark "zone" at the bend of the throat than like a sharp line. The crown was relatively although not perfectly rounded and sloped gradually down to the bill. The bill was grayish, MUCH thinner than a Common's but not as thin/sharp as a Red-throated's (still showing some culmen/gonydeal tapering, but without a noticeable gonydeal angle), and held horizontally at all times, never angled upward. No white was evident on the flanks, although the bird was strongly backlit. This appears to be a first Carbon County record and a fifth Lehigh Valley area record (?). I have looked for the species extensively on the Atlantic coast and in Pennsylvania but had never found my own, although I do have experience with breeding individuals in PA and Alaska and nonbreeding individuals in several states.</p>
Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)	see description
Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)	see description
Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)	yes
During	none
After	Sibley app
Supporting evidence (check all that apply)	Photograph

Upload images, audio, video
or drawings



[PALO 1.jpg](#)



[PALO 2.jpg](#)

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PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2019-04-26 14:07:02
Observer's Name	Bert Filemyr
E-mail	afilemyr@comcast.net
Phone	2152055735
Observer's Address	1314 Lenore Road Meadowbrook Pennsylvania 19046 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)	Juvenile (?)
Observation Date and Time	04-26-2019 11:00 AM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S55429753
County	Carbon
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Lehighton
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Boat ramp
GPS coordinates of sighting	40.862620, -75.619515
Habitat	Lake
Distance to bird	50 yards
Viewing conditions	Overcast, rain showers
Optical equipment used	Nikon 8x42 EDG
Description	Diving bird, General shape limited species to Loon.
Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)	Diving on a regular basis. Moving around

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

Separated from other loon species by head and bill shape, lack of white around eye, and sharp contrast to the the black and white on the neck. Not a stron "chin strap' but it was there.

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

Continuing bird

After

Sibley Guide to birds

Supporting evidence (check all that apply)

Photograph

Upload images, audio, video or drawings



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