

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

REPORT FORM

This form is intended as a convenience in reporting observations of species on the Louisiana Bird Records Committee (LBRC) Review List. The LBRC recommends the use of this form or a similar format when submitting records for review to assure that all pertinent information is accounted for. Attach additional pages or files as necessary. Please print or type for hard copy. For electronic copy, be sure to save this file to your computer before entering text. Attach field notes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for more obscurely marked species. When completed (if hard copy), mail to Secretary, Louisiana Bird Records Committee, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216, or e-mail electronic copy as an attachment to Paul Edward Conover at <zoiseaux@lusfiber.net> .

1. English and Scientific names: **Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellaris*)**
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): **2, apparent adults**
3. Parish: **Jackson**
Specific Locality: **Caney Creek Reservoir (SE side)**
4. Date(s) when observed: **27 Feb 2025**
5. Time(s) of day when observed: **~ 10am-12pm**
6. Reporting observer and address: **Dan Lane, LSU Museum of Natural Science, Baton Rouge**
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): **Van Remsen, Marybeth Lima, Lynn Hathaway**
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): **Various**
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): **Variable: overcast at times, bright sun from behind or from angle at others. Largely at a distance with some heat distortion.**
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): **Swarovski 25-60x telescope.**
11. Distance to bird(s): **from about 300m to about 800m at least.**
12. Duration of observation: **off and on for nearly 2 hours/**

13. Habitat: reservoir, primarily out near the middle.

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): When first detected, the loons were actively diving, and moving fair distances around the center of the reservoir, making relocation difficult. By about 11am, they both surfaced and swam near one another, eventually side-by-side, and preened and loafed. This was how we left them.

15. Description (include only what was actually seen, *not what "should" have been seen*; include if possible: total length/relative size compared to other familiar species; body bulk, shape, proportions; bill, eye, leg, and plumage characteristics. Stress features that separate it from similar species, *or for species that are known to hybridize frequently, stress features that help eliminate possible hybrids*): Petite loons with pale gray upperparts and brilliant white underparts. Face and leading edge of neck extensively white with darker gray limited to the center of the crown and rear of neck (one bird seemed to have a dark mark on the cheek, and one had a small smudge of dark (red molting in?) on the middle of the upper throat. Bill slender and upturned. Heads held slightly to exaggeratedly bill-upwards. When side-by-side with Common Loon, they were dwarfed.

16. Voice: None heard. Van played recordings to them, but I didn't see any indication of positive response.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Common Loon was directly compared side-by-side, and overall shape easily distinguished (much larger, bulkier, heavier, more dagger-like bill, blocky head, bill held parallel to water, browner above). Pacific and Arctic loons would have been browner, darker-headed, more dagger-like bill. Yellow-billed Loon would be like Common, but larger, heavier upturned-bill, browner plumage.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Yes, see below.

19. Previous experience with this species: Extensive in northeastern US.

20. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification): none

a. at time of observation:

b. after observation:

21. This description is written from:

<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made during the observation.	Are notes attached?	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made after the observation.	At what date?	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	memory		
<input type="checkbox"/>	study of images		

22. Are you positive of your identification? If not, explain: **Yes**

23. Date: 28 Feb 2025

Time: 11:15am

24. May the LBRC have permission to display this report or portions of this report on its website? ___Yes___

If yes, may we include your name with the report? ___Yes___





