

STATUS OF THE YELLOW-BILLED LOON (*GAVIA ADAMSII*) IN THE WESTERN UNITED STATES AND MEXICO

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Current knowledge of the breeding range, dispersal routes, and wintering range of the Yellow-billed Loon (*Gavia adamsii*) is summarized by Burn and Mather (1974). However, neither these authors nor the AOU Check-list (1957) cite acceptable records for Mexico or the contiguous western United States. The purpose of this paper is to enumerate and analyze the 52 records that have been obtained from this area during the last 19 years. The problems of distinguishing this species from the Common Loon (*Gavia immer*) in the field and hand are discussed by Binford and Remsen (1974) and Burn and Mather (1974).

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

The 52 records that we consider acceptable through August 1974 are distributed as follows: Washington, 26 (0 represented by museum specimens, 5 others by photographs, and 21 by sight records only); Oregon, 3 (0, 1, 2); California, 20 (3, 3, 14); Nevada, 1 (0, 0, 1); and Baja California, 2 (1, 0, 1). These records are listed in Appendix A. Additional published records for which substantiating details are either inadequate or not available are presented in Appendix B.

The vast majority (84.6%) of records between the British Columbia border and northern Baja California are from two regions: central California and the area embracing Puget Sound and the Straits of Georgia and Juan de Fuca, Washington (see Summaries of Distribution Within States). This rather spotty distribution probably is largely a result of uneven coverage by observers. We have examined the supposed *adamsii* specimen from Colorado and find that it is a typical example of *G. immer* (see Appendix B), leaving the Nevada sighting as the only inland occurrence for the contiguous United States. The record from near San Felipe, Baja California is the southernmost for the species in North America (Simon and Simon 1974).

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SEASONAL DISTRIBUTION

Forty-eight of the 52 records are for the period 20 October-4 May. The remaining four records, one each for Washington, Oregon, California, and Baja California, extend from 14 June through 15 July. Because the other three species of loons summer in small numbers along the coast (Grinnell and Miller 1944, McCaskie and DeBenedictis 1966, Jewett et al. 1953), the occurrence of Yellow-billed Loons in summer is not surprising.

The 46 non-summer records from Washington, Oregon, and California are plotted in a seasonal chart (Figure 1). A comparison of dates on which birds were first discovered discloses the following trend: 66.7% of Washington-Oregon birds arrived between 2 November and 17 January and the remaining 33.3% between 7 March and 22 April, with none in the intervening seven weeks. The average arrival dates for fall and spring were 9 December and 22 March. Only three of eighteen (16.7%) Washington birds and no Oregon birds overwintered. In California, on the other hand, only 21.1% of the birds were discovered prior to 29 December, 73.7% from 29 December to 26 January, one bird in mid-February, and none in March or April. The six-day period 21-26 January alone produced 47.4% of all California discoveries. The average "fall" arrival date was 3 January.

The most likely explanation for this difference in seasonal pattern between the two areas is that fall migrants usually do not overwinter in Washington and Oregon but by late January have moved farther south into California (and Baja California), where they arrive sometimes as early as 20 October but principally in late January. Beginning in late February and extending into early May, the wintering birds leave California and move north again, migrating through coastal Washington and Oregon primarily in March. All three of the Washington wintering birds apparently left during this period, one in late February and two in April. Wayne C. Weber (pers. comm.) of Vancouver states that in March and early April a similar spring migration takes place in southwestern British Columbia.

Although not supported by direct evidence, such as movements of marked individuals, this explanation seems to be the most plausible one to fit the available data. Mr. Weber, however, feels that more birds winter in the Puget Sound-Straits of Georgia area than in California, and that the discrepancy in winter abundance between Washington and California might be due to the greater number of active birders in the latter state. There are, in fact, a number of February records for southwestern British Columbia, and almost certainly the paucity of records from Oregon and coastal southern Washington reflects the low numbers of observers in those areas. We believe, however, that the number of observers affects only the absolute number of records, whereas the relative pro-

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portion of records in the different time periods reflects a true pattern in seasonal distribution.

The only Yellow-billed Loon discovered in California after 26 January was on 18 February in Humboldt County, at least 180 miles north of the localities that have produced all other California records. This bird, which was last seen on 7 March, might have been on its way north

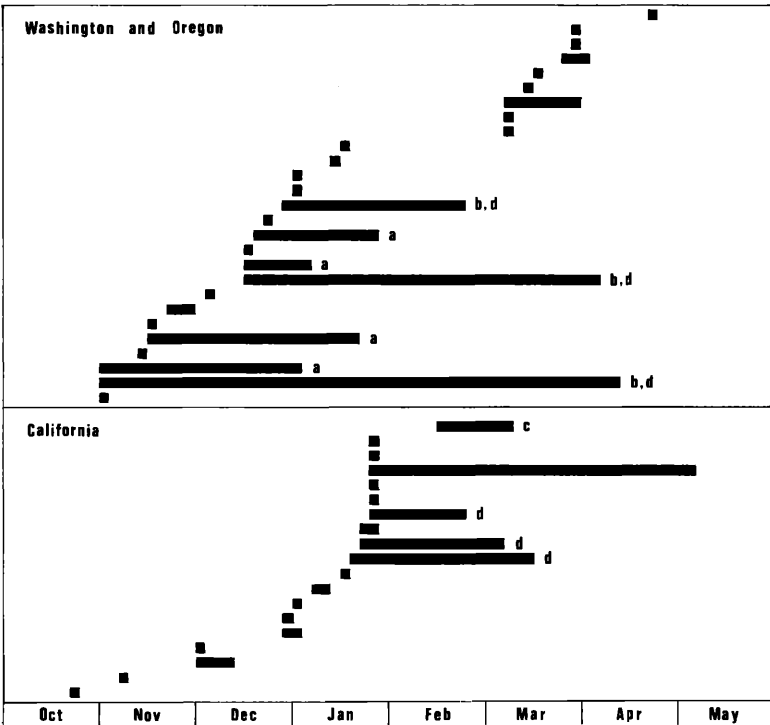


Figure 1. Seasonal distribution of the Yellow-billed Loon in California and the Washington-Oregon area. Each line represents the period of occurrence, plotted in three-day intervals, for one of the 46 birds recorded from October to May. See text for discussion and Appendix A for specific data. Compare the Washington-Oregon area to California and note the following: the earlier arrival, on the average, in Washington-Oregon; in January, the sudden cessation of arrivals and exodus of temporary fall visitants (each labeled "a" in figure) in Washington-Oregon, and the ensuing increase of arrivals in California; the scarcity of overwintering birds (b) in Washington-Oregon, and the failure of California birds discovered before mid-January to overwinter; the discrete cluster of spring transient migrants in Washington-Oregon, the paucity thereof (c) in California, and the nearly simultaneous departure of most overwintering birds (d) from both areas (generally earlier in California).

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after wintering farther south and would have been expected to pass through Humboldt County about that time—slightly earlier than the first northbound birds are detected in Washington and Oregon (early March). Thus the Humboldt record probably supports our interpretation of seasonal distribution. [The only other Humboldt County bird, present from 23 February to 7 March 1975 (D. Erickson pers. comm.), beyond the cut-off date for records analyzed in this paper, also fits this pattern.]

The discovery of two birds in Baja California, despite the scarcity of observers there, suggests that south of central California Yellow-billed Loons may be more regular than supposed. Furthermore, California birds arriving prior to 17 January are not known to have remained for more than 11 days and thus may represent transient migrants that winter in Baja California. This is further suggested by the earliness of the only winter-period record for Baja, 24 November, which is 15 days earlier than the average arrival date for Washington-Oregon. Surprisingly, however, not a single bird has been recorded in southern California, a very thoroughly birded area, nor have any returning spring transients been recorded in central California.

The only Nevada bird was found at Lake Tahoe on 6 January (1973). Because this date is only three days beyond the average fall arrival date for California, and because at this latitude no California bird has commenced overwintering prior to 17 January, the Nevada bird seems to fit the general seasonal pattern as a fall transient migrant.

SUMMARIES OF DISTRIBUTION WITHIN STATES

Washington: rare but regular transient migrant (2 Nov.-26 Jan.; 7 Mar.-22 Apr.; average arrival dates, 9 Dec. and 22 Mar.); casual winter resident (three records); casual in summer (one record). All but one record are from the area embracing Puget Sound and the Straits of Georgia and Juan de Fuca, but this is almost certainly a result of the concentration of observers there.

Oregon: two March records; casual in summer (one record). The paucity of records is probably the result of the scarcity of observers in coastal areas. We predict that more thorough coverage will demonstrate a distribution extending along the entire coast and a seasonal status similar to that in Washington.

California: very rare but regular winter resident (20 Oct.-4 May; average "fall" arrival date, 3 Jan.); records concentrated in late January; birds arriving before 17 January are not known to winter and thus may be transient migrants; casual in summer (one record). All records, except one from Humboldt Bay, are for central California from Sonoma County to Monterey County.

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Baja California: casual in fall (one record) and summer (one record). Both records are from extreme northern Baja, one each from the Pacific Ocean and the Gulf of California.

Nevada: accidental (one January record for Lake Tahoe that may represent a "fall" transient migrant).

COMPARISON BETWEEN YEARS

Prior to the winter of 1967-68, only three Yellow-billed Loons had been noted in the area with which we are concerned: one each in the winters of 1956-57, 1963-64, and 1964-65, all in Washington. In the seven winters from 1967-68 to 1973-74, however, 45 birds were recorded (Table 1), with an additional four summer occurrences. Some observers (e.g. Small 1974) feel that the species had been previously overlooked and that the abrupt surge in records in recent years is only a function of the increase in number of observers and their sudden alertness, after the original discoveries, to the possible presence and field marks of the species. Others, including ourselves, feel that this recent increase does in fact reflect a true change in status for the following reasons: (1) observers in the Pacific Northwest have always looked for this species (J. B. Crowell, Jr. pers. comm.); (2) the increase in records in both California and Washington began in the same winter, 1967-68; and (3) this species probably could not have been overlooked in the past in such thoroughly covered California localities as Monterey harbor, Moss Landing, Tomales Bay, and Bodega Bay. This question, however, cannot be answered with certainty at this time.

Table 1. Annual occurrence of the Yellow-billed Loon in the western United States and Mexico. Numbers of records are listed by locality for seven winter periods (October-May), 1967-1974.

WINTER	WASH.	ORE.	CALIF.	NEV.	BAJA CALIF.	TOTAL
1967-68	2	-	2	-	-	4
1968-69	1	2	5	-	1	9
1969-70	1	-	1	-	-	2
1970-71	4	-	4	-	-	8
1971-72	2	-	2	-	-	4
1972-73	5	-	3	1	-	9
1973-74	7	-	2	-	-	9

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A comparison of the total number of records for each of the last seven winter periods (Table 1) suggests this species has "good winters" and "bad winters." Although perhaps real, this trend cannot be statistically tested with such low sample sizes.

HABITAT PREFERENCES

Habitat utilization by the Yellow-billed Loon in the western United States and Mexico is indicated in Table 2. This species shows a preference for very sheltered waters (58.3% of all observations), such as Tomales Bay and Monterey harbor, and moderately sheltered waters (31.2%) such as Puget Sound, Monterey Bay, and the Gulf of California. This distribution is similar to that shown by Common and Red-throated (*Gavia stellata*) loons but contrasts with that of the Arctic Loon (*G. arctica*), which in winter is primarily a deep-water species that often feeds in rafts one to five miles offshore (pers. obs.).

Although we have no quantitative data available, our impression is that the Yellow-billed Loon prefers shallower water than the Common Loon. The same trend has been noted by W. C. Weber (pers. comm.) in the Vancouver area, but not by observers in Bellingham, Washington (T. R. Wahl pers. comm.). Within a pair of closely related species, the tendency for the one with the more upturned bill to be found in shallower water is also seen in the Red-throated and Arctic loons and the Eared

Table 2. Habitat preferences of the Yellow-billed Loon in the western United States and Mexico. Numbers of records are listed by locality for each habitat.

HABITAT	WASH.	ORE.	CALIF.	BAJA		TOTAL	% TOTAL
				NEV.	CALIF.		
Ocean more than one mile offshore	1	-	-	-	1	2	4.2
Exposed ocean coast	-	-	1	-	-	1	2.1
Moderately sheltered waters (sounds, gulfs, and exposed bays)	12	-	2	-	1	15	31.2
Very sheltered waters (unexposed bays, river mouths, estuaries and harbors)	8	3	17	-	-	28	58.3
Lakes	1	-	-	1	-	2	4.2

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and Horned grebes (Storer 1960, Binford and Remsen pers. obs.). Presumably the upturned bill facilitates benthic feeding, i.e. scraping an item from a substrate (Jehl 1970). Spring (1971) shows that in contrast to the Common Murre (*Uria aalge*), which feeds in open water, the Thick-billed Murre (*U. lomvia*) is primarily a bottom feeder and has the more upturned lower mandible.

SEX RATIO

Of the eight *adamsii* specimens taken in Britain (Burn and Mather 1974), one in Baja California (Jehl 1970), and three in California, all are females. Because the probability of drawing 12 straight females by chance from a population with an equal sex ratio is virtually zero, the preponderance of females must be real. Two possible explanations—that the sex ratio in the total population very strongly favors females or that the mortality rate in these southern areas is higher for females—seem to us very unlikely. Rather, we postulate that females winter, or at least wander, farther south than males. Page et al. (1972) have demonstrated that in the Western Sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*) females outnumber males at the southern extremities of the species' range.

MORTALITY

In California three out of the 20 (15%) Yellow-billed Loons were seen alive but later found dead, and several others appeared to be sick. Burn and Mather (1974) report that 20 of the 39 (51.3%) British records were of dead or dying birds. Such rates of unhealthiness seem much higher than would be considered normal and indicate that conditions in these southern waters are not conducive to survival. Support for this speculation is provided by the only available datum on cause of death. The first specimen for California was autopsied by Dr. Bernice Eddie of the George William Hooper Foundation, University of California Medical Center, San Francisco, and found to have died of aspergillosis (*Aspergillus* sp.), a respiratory disease especially prevalent among water birds. This is apparently the first report of aspergillosis in the Yellow-billed Loon (see O'Meara and Witter 1971). Perhaps there is a higher incidence of, or greater susceptibility to, aspergillosis or other diseases in the warmer, more polluted southern areas than in the colder, cleaner arctic regions that this species normally inhabits. If such is the case, disease could be a major factor in determining the southern limits of the ranges of this loon and certain other arctic water birds. Similar high rates of mortality are indicated by Yadon (1970) for the Thick-

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billed Murre and by Grinnell and Miller (1944) for the Horned Puffin (*Fratercula corniculata*) and Parakeet Auklet (*Cyclorhynchus psittacula*), all of which are only stragglers as far south as California. However, the distinct movement of spring migrant Yellow-billed Loons through Oregon, Washington, and southwestern British Columbia indicates that wintering to the south is not always fatal.

SUMMARY

Fifty-two Yellow-billed Loon records, including four specimens, have been obtained from the western United States and Mexico since 1956 (Washington, 26; Oregon, 3; California, 20; Nevada, 1; and Baja California, 2). Records extend from 20 October to 4 May, with an additional four in summer. This species is a very rare but regular winter resident in central California but seems to be primarily a transient migrant in Washington, Oregon, and northern California. The only Colorado record proves to be a Common Loon, leaving the Nevada sighting as the only inland record south of Canada. The San Felipe, Baja California record is the southernmost for the species in North America. The surge of records beginning in the winter of 1967-68 suggests that the Yellow-billed Loon is extending its range southward. Most records (89.5%) are for moderately to very sheltered waters. That all twelve specimens from California, Baja California, and Britain are females suggests that females winter or wander farther south than males. The abnormally high rates of mortality and sickness, including one fatal case of aspergillosis, suggest that disease may be a proximate factor delimiting the southern range of this and other arctic water birds.

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tain other records. David DeSante generously allowed us to publish his Nevada record. Betsy Webb, of the Denver Museum of Natural History, made available the Colorado specimen thought to be a Yellow-billed Loon.

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APPENDIX A. Acceptable records of the Yellow-billed Loon from the western United States and Mexico. Each record is designated according to its supporting evidence as follows: (1) MS = museum specimen; (2) P = photograph but no specimen; and (3) SR = sight record for which there are written details but no photograph or specimen. Each of these designations is modified as follows: (a) evidence examined by one or both of us; or (b) evidence not examined by us but by a professional ornithologist, Regional Editor of *American Birds* (formerly *Audubon Field Notes*), or Terence R. Wahl of Bellingham, Washington, who has field experience with this species. Records are listed chronologically by county. For birds recorded on more than one day, only the first and last dates are given; for specimens, the last date given is the day of collection.

WASHINGTON

Clallam Co. P(a) 27 Mar.-3 Apr. 1971 (not 26 Mar. as in Crowell and Nehls 1971); Ediz Hook; photographed by D. R. Paulson and D. L. Pearson (Wahl pers. comm.). SR(b) 14 Jul. 1974; Neah Bay (Crowell and Nehls 1974); seen by S. Wilson and J. Wingfield.

Grays Harbor Co. SR(b) 17 Jan. 1971; Westport (Crowell and Nehls 1971); seen by G. Hoge and W. Hoge.

Jefferson Co. SR(b) 6 Dec. 1969; Hood's Canal (Crowell and Nehls 1970); seen by B. Evans, P. Evans, D. Lindstrom, J. Rathfelder, R. Rathfelder et al. (Wahl pers. comm.). SR(b) 22 Apr. 1973; Admiralty Inlet, east of Port Townsend (Crowell and Nehls 1973b); seen by A. Benedict. SR(b) 18 Nov. 1973; Hood's Canal; seen by B. Evans and P. Evans (Wahl pers. comm.).

King Co. SR(a) 23 Dec. 1956; Seward Park, Seattle; seen by Z. Schultz et al. (Schultz 1970); although the details published by Schultz are not in themselves convincing, her reputation as a careful and competent field observer and verbal descriptions to T. R. Wahl and others have led most field observers in Washington to regard this as the first state record.

Mason Co. SR(b) 16 Mar. 1974; Shelton; seen by G. Hoge and W. Hoge (Crowell pers. comm.).

San Juan Co. SR(a) 18 Dec. 1971; near Stuart Is., San Juan Islands; seen by R. Russell (Russell 1972 and pers. comm.). P(b) 17 Dec. 1972-early Jan. 1973; Friday Harbor; seen by J. Duemmel and D. Heinemann and photographed by the latter (Wahl pers. comm.).

Skagit Co. SR(b) 28 Mar. 1969; Deception Pass (Crowell and Nehls 1969); seen by D. S. Payne. SR(b) 17 Dec. 1972-6 Apr. 1973; seen by E. Hunn, N. Lavers et al. (Crowell and Nehls 1973b, Wahl pers. comm.). SR(b) 7-8 Mar. 1973; Samish Is.; seen by N. Lavers and C. Lavers (Wahl pers. comm.). SR(b) 31 Mar. 1974; Samish Is.; seen by N. Lavers (Wahl pers. comm.).

Thurston Co. SR(b) 24-30 Nov. 1973; Eld Inlet, 10 miles north of Olympia; seen by B. Estes, G. Hoge and W. Hoge (Crowell pers. comm.).

Whatcom Co. SR(b) 21 Dec. 1963-26 Jan. 1964; Point Roberts (Boggs and Boggs 1964); seen by Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Hesse et al. SR(b) 15 Nov. 1964; Point Roberts; seen by T. R. Wahl (pers. comm.). SR(b) 14-15 Jan. 1968 (not 12-13 Jan. as given by Schultz 1970); Birch Bay; seen by Z. Schultz, E. Grahlf, E. Stopps, D. S. Payne and T. R. Wahl; presumed by Crowell and Nehls (1968) to be same bird as the one seen 9-30 Mar. 1968 but probably not (Wahl pers. comm.). P(a) 9-30 Mar. 1968; Bellingham; found and photographed by D. S. Payne (Wahl pers. comm.); see cover photo *Aud. Field Notes* 22(3) 1968. P(b) 31 Dec. 1970-

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22 Feb. 1971; South Bellingham; found by J. Duemmel and photographed by T. R. Wahl (pers. comm.). SR(b) 3 Jan. 1971; Sandy Point; seen by E. W. Stiles (Wahl pers. comm.). SR(b) 2 Jan. 1972; Bellingham (Crowell and Nehls 1972a); seen by T. R. Wahl. SR(b) 2 Nov. 1972; Blaine (Crowell and Nehls 1973a); seen by D. R. Paulson. P(a) 3 Nov. 1973-1 Jan. 1974; South Bellingham; found and photographed by T. R. Wahl (pers. comm.). SR(a) 3 Nov. 1973-12 Apr. 1974; Point Roberts; found by R. Phillips and also seen by D. Heinemann, W. H. Hesse, B. A. MacDonald, D. L. Pearson, A. Small, T. R. Wahl, W. C. Weber et al. (Wahl pers. comm., Weber pers. comm.). SR(b) 17 Nov. 1973-19 Jan. 1974; South Bellingham; different individual from that found on 3 Nov. 1973; found by T. R. Wahl and seen by many others (Wahl pers. comm.).

CALIFORNIA

Alameda Co. SR(a) 3 Dec. 1972; Alameda beach; seen by J. Morlan and E. Roemer (Homem 1972a, Morlan pers. comm.). P(a) 26 Jan. 1973; Berkeley Pier (DeSante et al. 1973); found and photographed by C. Maynard.

Humboldt Co. SR(a) 18 Feb.-7 Mar. 1973; Humboldt Bay (DeSante et al. 1973); found by R. LeValley and also seen by D. Erickson, S. W. Harris, T. Schulenberg et al.

Marin Co. MS(a) 1-11 Dec. 1967 (not 12 Dec. as published by Chandik and Baldrige 1968); Inverness, Tomales Bay; found by G. Brady and seen by many until 11 Dec. when found dead by G. Miller (pers. comm.); California Academy of Sciences No. 65864; female. SR(b) 1 Jan. 1968; Pierce Point, Tomales Bay (Chandik and Baldrige 1968); seen by R. Stallcup. SR(b) 25 Jan. 1971; Inverness, Tomales Bay (DeSante and Wang 1971); seen by R. Stallcup.

Monterey Co. MS(b) 29 Dec. 1968-1 Jan. 1969; Monterey harbor (Baldrige and Chandik 1969); found by R. Greenberg and R. Griswold and also seen by L. C. Binford, T. Chandik et al.; Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History No. 2348; female. SR(a) 22-26 Jan. 1969; Pacific Grove (Baldrige and Chandik 1969, Remsen field notes); found by A. Baldrige and also seen by L. C. Binford, T. Chandik, D. DeSante, J. Greenberg, R. Greenberg, J. V. Remsen et al. P(a) 25 Jan.-22 Feb. 1969; Monterey harbor (Baldrige and Chandik 1969); found and photographed by A. Baldrige and also seen by R. L. Branson, A. Craig, J. Craig, D. DeSante, P. Devillers, G. McCaskie, W. Reese, J. V. Remsen, G. S. Suffel, V. L. Yadon et al. SR(b) 25 Jan. 1969; Moss Landing (Baldrige and Chandik 1969); seen by J. Greenberg and R. Greenberg. SR(a) 29 Dec. 1969; Point Joe (Baldrige and Chandik 1970); seen by A. Baldrige, D. DeSante and R. LeValley from a boat one-half mile offshore. MS(a) 23 Jan.-6 Mar. 1971; Moss Landing (DeSante and Wang 1971); found by J. Greenberg and R. Greenberg and seen by many until 6 Mar. when found dead by H. L. Jones; Museum of Vertebrate Zoology No. 162350; female. SR(b) 26 Jan. 1971; Moss Landing (DeSante and Wang 1971); seen by R. Stallcup and D. A. Gaines; a different individual from that on 23 Jan.-6 Mar. 1971, which was also seen on the same day by Stallcup and Gaines. SR(a) 21 Jan.-15 Mar. 1972; Pacific Grove (DeSante and LeValley 1972); found by A. Baldrige and R. Stallcup and also seen by S. F. Bailey, D. DeSante, G. S. Keith, R. LeValley, J. V. Remsen, A. Small et al. SR(a) 26 Jan.-4 May 1972; Monterey harbor area (DeSante and LeValley 1972a, 1972b; Suffel pers. comm.; McCaskie pers. comm.); found by G. S. Suffel and also seen by A. Baldrige, G. McCaskie and R. Stallcup; possibly more than one bird involved. SR(a) 10 Nov. 1973; Monterey harbor (Remsen and Gaines 1974); seen by L. C. Binford, J. Greenberg, P. Greenberg and W. McLeod. SR(a) 9-10 Jan. 1974; Monterey harbor (Stallcup

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and Greenberg 1974, Suffel pers. comm.); found by A. Baldrige and also seen by W. Anderson, H. L. Jones, P. Metropulos, G. S. Suffel, V. L. Yadon et al.; this bird is considered to be a different individual from that on 10 Nov. 1973 because the harbor and surrounding area were searched many times without success between the two sightings.

San Mateo Co. SR(a) 17-25 Jun. 1973. Princeton Harbor, Half Moon Bay (Remsen and Gaines 1973); found by L. C. Binford and J. V. Remsen and also seen by S. F. Bailey, B. G. Elliott, D. Roberson, S. Terrill et al.

Sonoma Co. P(b) 20 Oct. 1968; Bodega Bay (Chandik and Baldrige 1969); photographed by W. Anderson. SR(a) 17 Jan. 1971 (not 18 Jan. as in DeSante and Wang 1971); Bodega Bay; seen by B. Broadbooks (pers. comm.).

OREGON

Clatsop Co. SR(b) 8 Mar. 1969; Columbia River mouth (Crowell and Nehls 1969); seen by M. Konindyke and H. B. Nehls.

Coos Co. P(a) 15 Jul. 1972; Coos Bay (Crowell and Nehls 1972b; includes photograph); found and photographed by P. A. Buckley.

Tillamook Co. SR(b) 15 Mar. 1969; Tillamook River mouth (Crowell and Nehls 1969); seen by J. B. Crowell, Jr. and S. Janes.

NEVADA

Washoe Co. SR(a) 6 Jan. 1973; Incline Village, Lake Tahoe; seen by D. DeSante and J. Farness (DeSante pers. comm.); previously unpublished; excellent substantiating details are on file with us and the Regional Editors of *American Birds* (Middle Pacific Coast Region).

BAJA CALIFORNIA, MEXICO

MS(b) 24 Nov. 1968; Los Coronados Islands; San Diego Natural History Museum No. 36831; juvenal female (Jehl 1970). SR(a) 30 Jun. 1973; nine miles south of San Felipe on the Gulf of California; seen by D. Simon and W. F. Simon (Simon and Simon 1974).

APPENDIX B. Published records of the Yellow-billed Loon from the western United States not considered acceptable at this time. We do not wish to contend that all of these records were not of Yellow-billed Loons, but only that the substantiating details are either inadequate or not available. See Appendix A for explanation of system employed.

CALIFORNIA

Humboldt Co. SR(a) 19-23 Mar. 1969; Big Lagoon (Yocum and Harris 1975); insufficient details. SR(a) 30 Dec. 1973-1 Jan. 1974; Humboldt Bay (Stallcup and Greenberg 1974, Yocum and Harris 1975); descriptions indicate Common Loon.

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Marin Co. SR(a) 28 Apr. 1965; Stinson Beach (see Chandik and Baldrige 1968); insufficient details. SR(a) 4 Mar. 1969; Limantour Estero, Point Reyes National Seashore (Baldrige and Chandik 1969); insufficient details. SR(a) 1 Jan. 1973; Drake's Bay, Point Reyes National Seashore (Homem 1973); insufficient details.

Sonoma Co. SR(a) 26 Dec. 1970; Bodega Bay (McLean 1971); insufficient details. SR(b) 21 Jan. 1971; two birds; Bodega Bay (Homem 1971a); no details available. SR(a) 25 Feb. 1971; Bodega Bay (Homem 1971b); insufficient details. SR(b) 13 Feb. 1972; Bodega Bay (Homem 1972b); no details available. SR(a) 10 Dec. 1973; Bodega Bay (Stallcup and Greenberg 1974); insufficient details.

COLORADO

Adams Co. MS(a) 7 Nov. 1922; Brighton (Bailey and Lincoln 1954, A.O.U. Check-list 1957, Bailey and Niedrach 1965); Denver Museum of Natural History No. 7807, not 7808 as reported by Bailey and Niedrach (1965); we have examined this specimen and found it to be a typical *Gavia immer* in all characters.