



12-30-1953

# A note on the Common Loon in southern Colorado

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## Recommended Citation

Daniel, Joseph C. Jr. (1953) "A note on the Common Loon in southern Colorado," *Great Basin Naturalist*: Vol. 13 : No. 3 , Article 2.  
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/gbn/vol13/iss3/2>

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### A NOTE ON THE COMMON LOON IN SOUTHERN COLORADO

The status of the Common Loon (*Gavia immer immer*) as a winter resident in the San Luis Valley (an intermontane basin) of southern Colorado has apparently been a point of question for many years. Bergtold (A Guide to Colorado Birds, 1928) maintains that it only occurs as a rare migrant. Booth (Birds of the West, 1948) describes it as wintering mainly on the west coast, while Bailey (Handbook of Birds of the Western United States (revised ed.), Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, 1935) has it wintering over all of the United States. An unpublished checklist by Donald A. Ryder in 1950 lists it as questionable, with the only record being from the Sangre De Cristo Range of mountains that lie east of the valley. Another unpublished list by Dr. Paul Cecil Bibbee for the summer of 1950 does not even include the Common Loon.

In the interest of clarifying this situation, I would like to report that a specimen was taken on February 24, 1953 at the state fish hatchery near La Jara, Colorado, which is in the southern part of the San Luis Valley. The bird was shot while disturbing the trout and then kept frozen for several days, after which, I acquired it and had it mounted for our museum here at Adam's State College. It is in full winter plumage.

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