

## GENERAL NOTES.

**Yellow-billed Loon (*Gavia adamsi*) in Colorado.— A Correction.—**

In writing the life history of the Yellow-billed Loon, I have been puzzled to know what to do with the supposed Colorado record of this species. I have always suspected that the record was based on an erroneous identification, as Colorado is so far away from the known range or migration route of this species.

The specimen on which it was based was taken by Mr. William G. Smith, near Loveland, Colorado, on May 25, 1885. A letter from Mr. Smith to Major Bendire, giving the details of its capture, is now in my hands and states that the bird was sold to Mr. Manly Hardy of Brewer, Maine, now deceased.

Knowing that the Hardy collection had been recently purchased for the Rhode Island Audubon Society and was now in the Park Museum in Providence, I wrote to my friend, Mr. Harry S. Hathaway, of that city, for his opinion, as to the identity of the specimen. He very kindly investigated the matter and sent me his report, together with a letter on the subject from Mrs. Fanny Hardy Eckstorm, which strengthened my doubts and practically convinced me that the record was based on an error. For my own personal satisfaction, I went to Providence and examined the specimen with Mr. Hathaway. It is not a Yellow-billed Loon, but a very curious specimen of the Common Loon and I am not surprised that Mr. Hardy, and others who have seen it, have been puzzled. Its entire plumage is decidedly worn and faded to a dull brownish shade. It is a young male in the immature plumage of the first year. Its bill is certainly yellow, the yellowest, or lightest colored, bill I have ever seen in any young loon, which probably led to its identification as *Gavia adamsi*; but the size and shape of the bill agree with *Gavia immer* and not with *G. adamsi*. The culmen measures about 3.20 in. and the depth of the bill at the base is about .90 in. Ridgway's 'Manual' gives, for *G. adamsi*, culmen 3.50 to 3.65 in. and depth, 1.00 to 1.20 in.; and for *G. immer*, culmen 2.75 to 3.50 in. and depth .90 to 1.05 in. The bird in question is small even for *Gavia immer* notwithstanding the fact that it is a male, and it has a particularly slender bill, even for that species, instead of the large, heavy bill, with the straight culmen so characteristic of *Gavia adamsi*. It is only fair to Mr. Hardy to say that he was in doubt about the bird and that the record never ought to have stood without verification. I cannot understand why some one, who was competent to identify the bird, did not examine the specimen before the record was published, which would have prevented the frequent repetition of an error, which can never be wholly rectified. Such errors are far too common and I hope that this one will be corrected in the next edition of our Check-List.— A. C. BENT, Taunton, Mass.