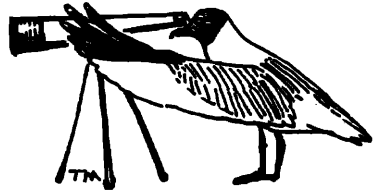


IDENTIFICATION NOTES



With this issue, we initiate a new and regular feature in *Western Birds*. Hopefully it will stimulate increased contribution of notes on field marks, photographs of poorly known or aberrant plumages, and other information worth sharing. Short notes on little-known field marks are particularly desirable, but should be backed by field experiences documenting the relative usefulness of these marks, and, if possible, examination of specimen collections. Notice and occasional summaries of articles appearing in other journals will also be included. We also wish to encourage interested and knowledgeable individuals to write full length identification papers on some of the knottier problem groups (see below). The format of this section may change considerably from issue to issue. To a large extent, contributions will reflect *your* interests.

PRIORITY LIST. Authors are encouraged to submit papers and notes dealing with any species. Greatest need, however, is for identification papers dealing with certain groups. The Field Identification Paper Committee has drafted the following list of these groups:

- Loons (especially at a distance)
- North Pacific procellariids (a series of papers)
- Frigatebirds
- Boobies
- Holarctic swans
- Holarctic teal (females and eclipse males)
- Eagles, buteos, accipiters and large falcons (a series)
- Golden plovers (all species and races)
- Holarctic godwits
- Calidris* sandpipers
- Jaegers and skuas
- Gulls of the northwestern Pacific (a series)
- Dark swifts (Vaux's, Black and Chimney)
- Vocalizations of owls
- Hummingbirds
- Myiarchus* flycatchers
- Empidonax* flycatchers
- Contopus* flycatchers
- Pipits (primarily Asiatic wanderers)
- Wingbarless vireos
- North American tanagers
- Grassland sparrows
- Spizella* sparrows
- Longspurs

A list of suggestions to contributors has also been prepared by the committee, and copies are available on request. Correspondence concerning notes, papers and other contributions on field identification should be addressed to: Tim Manolis, EPO Biology, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO 80309. Photographs of unusual plumages (e.g., immatures, poorly known age classes and polymorphisms) or rarely photographed species should be sent to the Photography Editor: Stephen Laymon, 3290 Ackley Road, Lakeport, CA 95453.

YELLOW-BILLED LOON IDENTIFICATION

A paper describing the first Yellow-billed Loon (*Gavia adamsii*) recorded in Switzerland has recently been published (M. Schwarz, Der Ornithologische Beobachter 75:213-226, 1978; in German with English summary). This paper presents an interesting discussion of field marks separating this species from the Common Loon (*G. immer*), and a number of photographs that are particularly useful in highlighting the back pattern and neck proportions, in various postures, of *G. adamsii*. Recent articles on the identification of large loons have appeared in *Western Birds* (Binford and Remsen, 5:111-126, 1974) and *British Birds* (Burn and Mather, 67:257-296, 1974).



Sketch by Tim Manolis

FEMALE "BLUE-WINGED" TEAL

Field marks separating (admittedly at very close range!) female Blue-winged (*Anas discors*) and Cinnamon (*A. cyanoptera*) teals were recently discussed by D. I. M. Wallace (*British Birds* 70:290-294, 1977). Briefly summarizing that article, the face of the female Blue-winged Teal is more strongly patterned (clearer white at base of bill, bolder eye stripe) than the face of the female Cinnamon (see sketch). The browns of the head and underparts of the Cinnamon female are warmer and redder in tone, and the bill tends to appear more spatulate, like that of Northern Shoveler (*A. clypeata*). Something not brought out in the paper, but which should be noted here, is that hybridization between these teal species, and between each and the Northern Shoveler, has been documented and could complicate this picture.

Field Identification Paper Committee: Tim Manolis, Chairman, Laurence C. Binford, Guy McCaskie, Richard Stallcup, Bruce Webb