

ABJ 2065

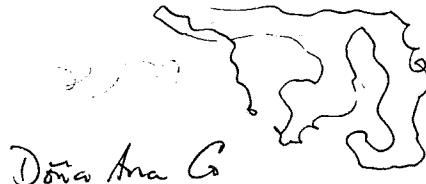
SPECIES: COMMON LOON
LOCATION: MESQUITE, DONA ANA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO
SUBMITTED BY: DAVID J. GRIFFIN, 2311 WEBB RD., LAS CRUCES, NM
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Today's Date: April 10, 2008

The collection details are:

Date collected: June 4, 2007; approx. 9 a.m.

Collection location: east shoulder of NM Hwy 478, at Archer Farms, approx. 1 mi N of Mesquite, NM



Collected by: Phil Archer of Archer Farms, Mesquite, NM. Phil and his wife were heading north to Las Cruces on Hwy 478 when he noticed a large bird on the right (east) side shoulder of the road. He sensed that it was injured and he stopped, turned around and went back to make sure the bird wasn't on the road (he told me that most people down there would try and run it over, rather than avoid it!). He picked it up and he said it was "pissed" at him, making all kinds of noise and trying to bite at him. He noticed very fresh blood coming from the birds' toe and on its face. He assumed that the bird may have thought that the road pavement was a strip of water, and came down for a landing. He also assumed that it must have crashed right before he first noticed the bird, as the blood was fresh and still flowing. He thought it was an immature Great Blue Heron at first, and never noticed the webbed feet. When he realized that the bird was injured, he decided to take it to his veterinarian. The vet looked it over and then Mr. Archer took it to Jerry Tillet, a licensed wildlife rehabilitator in Las Cruces.

Ms. Tillet was not certain as to the birds' identity and soon thereafter called me to see if I might help identify the bird. Over the phone, I couldn't help her much (mostly because the month of June was out of the 'normal' time for a loon to be here), but she told me that she was going to have another rehabber take the bird. I know the other rehabber and so agreed to meet her at her facility to identify the bird. When I arrived there, it was obvious as to the identity (see photos below).

The bird had more than a broken toe and bloody bill; its' right wing was apparently broken and there certainly were internal injuries as well. The bird was placed in a small pool of water in a protected location, but died later that night (June 4th, 2007).

I took possession of it on June 12. And it's been in my freezer since that time.







