

Vartapetov, L.S. 1984. Ptitsy taezhnykh mezhdurechiy Zapadnoi Sibiri [Birds of the taiga interstream areas of West Siberia]. Novosibirsk, Nauka Press (Siberian Branch). 242 p. In Russ.

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*Gavia stellata stellata* (Pontoppidan, 1763) – Red-throated Loon (RTLO).

In the northern taiga it is sighted only in the beginning of June on large high-floodplain lakes, surrounded by peat bogs, and in August on small lakes amidst similar bogs (4 and 2). In the middle taiga it was recorded during the nesting period on “gryadovo-mochazinnykh” peat bogs and at the end of May and June (2). From early July to the middle of August these loons are not observed in the counts at nesting sites, though at the end of August the RTLO again were seen on small lakes amidst “gryadovo-mochazinnykh” (wet beds complexes) peat bogs (2). At the same time since the beginning of July this loon is common on large above-floodplain lakes amidst peat bogs (4). On one of such lakes 1 July 1977 two adult RTLOs were observed with two young birds the size of a Teal (or Garganey).

On average in the summer in northern taiga this loon is rare on large above-floodplain lakes and “gryadovo-mochazinnykh” —lake complexes of the peat bogs (0.4-0.5). In the middle taiga in similar habitats its number is 2-4 times greater.

Thus, the RTLO clearly prefers the extensive peat bogs, and occurs only in the north- and middle-taiga interstream areas. It is completely absent from interstream areas of more southern subzones and in Ob’ R. valley – from northern taiga to subtaiga forests. However, downy and flying RTLO chicks were observed by Gyngazov and Milovidov [1977] on Ob’ River near Strezhevoi town (middle taiga). The same authors confirm the southern border of the nesting distribution of this loon in the forest zone of west Siberia on the border of the southern and middle taiga.