

Labutin, Yu.V., Germogenov, N.I., Pozdnyakov, V.I. 1988. from Ptitsy okolovodnykh landshaftov doliny nizhnei Leny [Birds of the near-water landscapes of Lower Lena River area]. Novosibirsk, Nauka. Sib. Branch of Russ. Ac. of Sc. 193 p. ISBN 5-02-028893-4. Tabl.82. Ill.16 Bibliogr: 136 titl. In Russ.

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

In spite of wide distribution of the species in the forest and tundra zones of Yakutia [Vorob'yov, 1963], we observed the Red-throated Loon during the study period only within the limits of southern and central plots and did not sight it in northern part, where typical RTLO habitats in cistundra forests are distributed. In the region between Siktyakh and Kysyur settlements the RTLO, to all probability, is extremely rare. We don't want to speculate about the complete absence of RTLO in this area, because in adjoining territories (along Indigirka and Khatanga) it is recorded as nesting (Mikhel, 1935; Sdobnikov, 1959), and even in a greater number, than in the taiga of more southern latitudes.

Typical nesting water bodies of the species are relatively small (about 1.5-2.0 ha) and rather shallow (including lakes of the "staritsa" (old bed of river) type) covered with tussocks or gentle banks. Birds build nests near water edge – on tussocks, near their bases or between them. In spite of that, some nests are raised 15 cm above water level, all nests (n=3) have wet or moistened cup (diameter 24.0-29.6, depth 3.6-7 cm). Lining consists of small quantity of water plants, mainly mosses. Some constructions are used many times, and on occasion birds occupy deepening sites left from the Black-throated Loon. Thus, in 1980-1981 the RTLO nested in the cup, which during two previous years was used by a Black-throated Loon.

RTLOs begin egg-laying in the first half of June, just after abatement of the spring floods. We found 5 nests in the region of Muna River mouth from 8 to 19 June (1979-1981). The full clutches (fresh and incubated) consisted of one (n=1) or two (n=4) eggs. Their sizes were (n=7) 42.4-45.8 x 65.4-68.4, with a mean of 44.47 x 66.61 mm. During the whole incubation period eggs were situated in extra-moistened conditions, and occasionally during water level raising or during heavy precipitations they were touching the water.

Small fish bones, remains of vegetative parts of plants, and sedge seeds were discovered in the stomach of an adult bird on 30 August 1978.

Yellow-billed Loon is not described.