

Perfil'yev, V.I. 1988. Beloklyuvaya gagara [Yellow-billed Diver]. // Krasnaya kniga Yakutskoi ASSR [Red Data Book of the Yakutian ASSR]. Novosibirsk, Nauka Press. Pp.33-34. In Russ.

Translated by Jevgeni Shergalin, edited by Oksana Lane

Yellow-billed Loon – *Gavia adamsii* Gray, 1859.

Status. III category.

Distribution. The species nests throughout all of tundra of Yakutia, penetrating in some places into the forest-tundra [1]. The southernmost sightings of YBLO breeding for the last years were in the north-taiga belt of Kolyma-Alazeya interstream area. In summer 1967 on Biyali Lake a nest was found (68 N.L.), and on the river with the same name a brood was sighted [2].

Habitat. Breeding sites – large lakes with sufficient depth, abundant with fish. Willingly inhabits lakes with low grassy banks, indented by fjords and frost-hitting holes. Shortly after ice out they arrive and remain on rivers and small lakes, sometimes concentrating in several pairs. Natural habitats were not subject to considerable changes.

Number. Census of the total number of the Yellow-bellied Loon was not carried out. In the tundra its numbers are low. In Chromo-Indigirka tundra on the standard 400 km routes in the summer 1961 4 individuals were counted, and in 1962 – 5, though in some sites it is considered common [1]. In the forest-tundra the Yellow-billed Loon is extremely rare. Reasons for the Yellow-billed Loon population decline are hidden in systematic harvesting of them, especially prior to enforcing the first Hunting Regulations.

Breeding. Arrives on the breeding grounds in early June. Begins to breed in the second half of July with release of great lakes from ice. Nests are often placed on small islands or isthmuses. Two nests found on Alazeya River and on Biyali Lake, were located: one on isthmus, the second one on the island [2,3]. There are usually 2 eggs in a clutch, seldom 1 egg.

Enemies, diseases, competitors. There are no known enemies and competitors for adult Yellow-bellied Loons, but predators can cause certain damage to chicks and eggs during nesting period. There is no information on diseases.

Official conservation measures. Harvesting of Yellow-billed Loons is limited by the Hunting regulations of 1962 [4], and by Regulations, accepted by council of Ministers of Yakutian ASSR in 1974 and 1981 [5], their shooting is prohibited completely.

Necessary conservation measures. Strengthen propaganda of the species conservation and fight against poaching, organize censuses, study distribution and biology of species.

Information sources: 1. Vorob'yov, 1963; 2. Perfil'yev, 1976; 3. Perfil'yev, Revin, 1972; 4. Pravila okhoty v Yakutskoi ASSR, 1962; 5. Pravila okhoty v Yakutskoi ASSR, 1981.

Compiler: V.I.Perfil'yev.