

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Red-necked Grebe How many? 1Location? Colo Ponds - Story CountyType of habitat? flooded farm field - south side of highwayWhen? date(s): June 28, 1998 time: 3:45 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.Who? your name and address: Mark Proescholdt, Box 65, Liscomb, Iowa 50148others with you: Eugene and Eloise Armstrongothers before or after you: Hank Zaletel, Pam and Reid Allen

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

Hank found this bird and called to pass on the news. It was in basic plumage and similar to one Hank found July 4, 1996, at Anderson Lake in Hamilton County. It really doesn't look like any of the illustrations in any of the major field guides. It was very brown - dark brown on its back and brown on its head and back of its neck. It was off white in color on its belly and underchin area. It was light brown on its neck and under its bill. I believe it had a dark eye. Its webbed feet and legs were dark. Some white was showing in its wings. It had a long bill with the lower edge of the lower mandible very straight and the upper edge of the upper mandible angled to the tip of the bill. The lower mandible of the bill was yellow and the upper mandible was dark. Its brownish head was straight on top and had two little knobs on both ends of the straight part which gave it an interesting shape to its head. It had a long tail that stuck out like a stiff-tailed duck (Ruddy) at times. On land at first, then swimming, then diving.

Similar species and how eliminated:

Hooded Merganser discussed.

Not shaped like ducks. Too big

for 3 little grebe species.

Looked like a ♀ Hooded Merganser somewhat but didn't have a merganser bill.

Much smaller body size than 2 mallards near it.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NO

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:
Mostly sunny, some clouds, good viewing, 30 yards at first to 70 yards at end time while swimming (estimated), 8x30 Binocs and 22x scope.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

One like this in July 1996.

References and persons consulted before writing description: none

How long before field notes made? while viewing this form completed? July 8, 1998