

IOWA BREEDING BIRD ATLAS DOCUMENTATION FORM

What species? Red-necked Grebe How many? 2Location: County Emmet ~~Block~~Location in detail T99N, R34W, Sec. 8, SE 1/4 at Four MileLake Restored Area. ~150 yds. NW of NW corner of furthest east parking lot along
County Rd. A22.Habitat? Restored wetland w/ emergent vegetation - surrounded by grasslandWhen? date? 6-9-93 Time: 10:15 A.M. to 11:15 A.M.Observer? Name: Bruce Ehresman & Molly FlahertyAddress: Wildlife Research Stne, Boone 50036Telephone: (515) 432-2823

Description of bird(s): include size, shape, detailed description of all parts including bill, eye, head, neck, back, wings, tail, throat, breast, belly, undertail, legs, feet; also voice and behavior. Use additional sheets if necessary.

Initially was looking at ducks and noticed bird with very long neck and pointed bill. Saw white cheek and chin and thought "western grebe", but immediately saw red neck and smaller size and eliminated that possibility. Both birds marked the same. Black cap, pointed light-colored beak, white cheek and chin, long red neck, light colored belly, white wing patches seen when birds flapped, dark back, no noticeable tail. Couldn't see feet since birds were swimming. Couldn't hear voices since wind was blowing ~20-25 mph.

Similar species and how eliminated: Head similar to western grebe, but this grebe's neck is rusty red color. Body also smaller than western grebe, and bill not as long and pointed.

Did anyone have reservations about identification? If so, explain:

No

Viewing conditions: lighting, distance and how measured, optical equipment used. Windy, overcast day - but pretty good viewing from inside vehicle using Bushnell 45X Spotting Scope + 10x50 binocs.

Previous experience with this species and other similar ones:

During IA Breeding Bird Atlas work saw numerous pied-billed grebes, a few eared grebes, + a pair of western grebes courting.

BREEDING BEHAVIOR: Give all details observed that indicate that the species breeds on the block. If nest, eggs, young, or courtship display were observed, describe in detail.

Watched 1 grebe diving and then emerging with vegetation in its beak, which it carried to 2nd grebe at edge of emergent cattails. 2nd grebe then took material and appeared to place material in the same place each time among the cattails. A floating mat of vegetation was seen where the 2nd grebe was placing the material. This activity was observed for about 15 minutes. Later both birds were seen diving and depositing material which they carried in their beaks to the same location. The "presumed" nest site was in a narrow band of emergent cattails adjacent to the north end of a grassy island and where an island of emergent cattails east of the grassy island ends.

Occasionally both grebes would swim together in the vicinity of the presumed nest site, and at one point one grebe chased a male ruddy duck from the same area when the ruddy duck swam within ~20 yds.

On 8-10-93 returned to look for grebes in late afternoon. Saw no grebes but could see floating mat anchored in cattails where activity occurred yesterday.

If books or other birders were consulted before writing up the documentation, please list them here:

Birds of N. Am. - Robbins, Braun, Zim, Singer

A Field Guide to Western Birds Nests - Hal Harrison

How long after observation were field notes made?

Notes taken as we watched birds.

How long after observation was this form completed?

Couple weeks