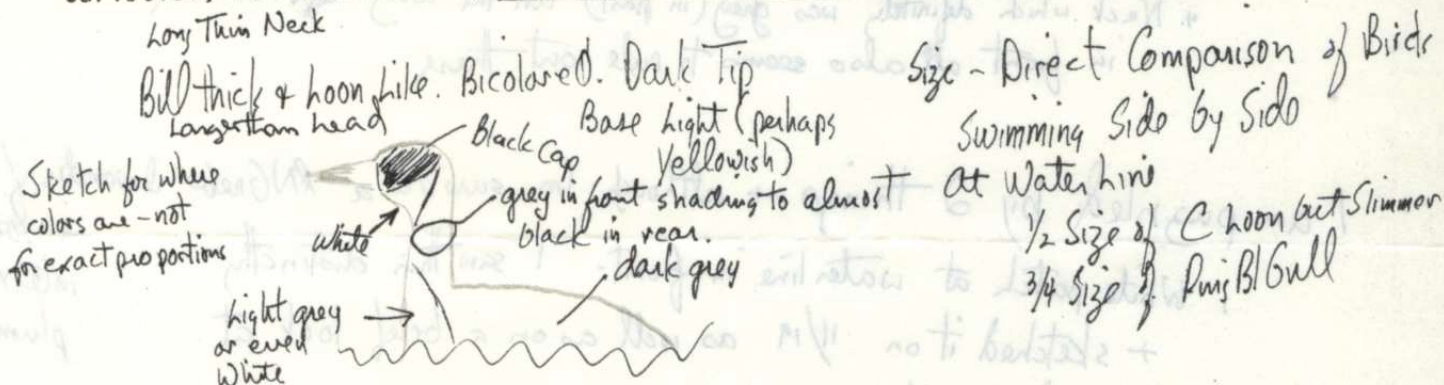


BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species Red-necked Grebe 2. Number 1
3. Location Coralville Reservoir - Mehafee Br. Area - Johnson Co.
4. Date: 19 November 1986 5. Time Bird Seen: 7:45 AM to 8:15 AM

6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field):



7. Description of voice, if heard: -

8. Description of behavior: Swimming - Dore once + stayed down for 30"

9. Habitat - general: lake

specific:

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:

Over

11. Distance (how measured)? ? - it was 2/3 of the way from bridge to the far shore 12. Optical equipment: Spotting Scope
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):
Light Overcast

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:

I've seen all the smaller, common Grebes +

15. Other observers:

16. Did the others agree with your identification?

17. Other observers who independently identified this bird:

Jim Follen, Carol Thompson

18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:
Std 3 Field Guide + Seabirds - I went looking for this bird, previously seen by others.

I wanted to know what to look for

19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? 2 weeks, although

Signature: Richard Holly Address: 3351 Lower West Branch Rd field notes were written on the spot.

Date: 30 November City, State: Iowa City IA 52240 Nothing is added here

After ruling out Horned + Eared Grebes due to bill size + color + shape

The only possibilities for this bird are

Western Grebe + Smaller loons.

- 1 Red-Throated loon seems ruled out by shape of bill
- 2 In fact all loons + W. Grebe seem ruled out by bicolored bill
- 3 Posture + Build were slimmer than most loons I've seen
- 4 Neck which definitely was grey (in part) all the way ~~to~~ around in front all also seems to rule out these

I am puzzled by 2 things + although I'm sure it's a R. Grebe I wonder if it is in some intermediate plumage.

1 White patch at waterline in front - I saw this distinctly + sketched it on 11/19 as well as on a brief look at the bird on 11/16.

2 Dark cap seems to extend further down the head than any of the Plates would lead me to expect.