

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species Western grebe 2. Number 1
3. Location Sandy Beach, Coralville Reservoir, Johnson Co IA
4. Date: 5-10-81 5. Time Bird Seen: 3 PM to 3:20 PM
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):
size of large duck, long slender neck, near length of body, carried upright.
long slender pointed bill.
Underparts pure white. Upperparts from crown to tail black. Black comes down on side of face past level of eye.
7. Description of voice, if heard: —
8. Description of behavior: swam, dived. stayed well out in center of reservoir.
9. Habitat - general: large reservoir, surrounded by forest + cropland.
specific:
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:
long neck + pointed bill indicate grebe; large size + color patterns eliminate other grebes.
11. Distance (how measured)? 200 - 350 yds est
12. Optical equipment:
8x40 binocs.
25x60 scope.
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):
sun at 90° angle.
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:
have seen all N. Am. grebes in IA, MA, WA, UTch, TX; including many Westerns in WA, UTch.
15. Other observers: Carol Newlon, Cal. + Benie Knight.
16. Did the others agree with your identification? yes
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird:
T. Kent made original sighting
18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:
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19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description?
Notes made after returning home.
- Signature: Michael Newlon Address: 408 Water St
- Date: 5-23-81 City, State: Iowa City IA 52240