

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species Western Grebe 2. Number: 1
3. Location Coralville Reservoir, E of Sandy Beach area, Johnson Co.
4. Date: Oct. 27, 1977 5. Time Bird seen: 3:25-~~3~~ to 3:45 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): Larger than nearby ducks (mostly L. scaups, but also Canvasbacks). Long neck, yellow bill longer than head. Crown and back of neck black, sharply delineated from white face and front of neck. Breast white, abdomen also. Back dark grey. Long white wing stripe evident when bird flapped wings
7. Description of voice, if heard: —
8. Description of behavior: swimming with neck folded back, occasionally straightening it to its full length; preening, flapping wing
9. Habitat - general: —
specific: deep portion of reservoir
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain:
Red-necked Grebe: smaller, shorter bill, ventral aspect of neck not white but gray. Horned Grebe (one nearby for direct comparison): much smaller, shorter neck and bill. White wing patch, not long stripe.
11. Distance (how measured)? est. 500 m (10/28: est. 250 m) 12. Optical equipment: 20-45x Bushnell zoom scope
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you): mostly sunny, a few wispy clouds. O → obs. → bird almost exactly 180°
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: familiar with all grebes. W. Grebe last seen here in Nov. '71
15. Other observers: none at time of observation
16. Did the others agree with your identification? —
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: 10/31: T. Shires; still there 11/3 NH
10/28: R. DeCoster; 10/30: Mike & Carol Newton; NH with Peter and Mary Lou Petersen
18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description: none
19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? 2 hrs
- Signature: A. H. Allen Address: R#6, IOWA CITY, IA 52240
- Date: Oct. 27, 1977 City, State: —