

DOCUMENTATION FORM
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

What species? Red-necked Grebe How many? 1

Location? Sweet Marsh, Bremer Co., IA

Type of Habitat? large open water area of man-made marsh

When? date(s): 12 May 1987 time: 1:15 to 1:30 approx

Who? your name and address: Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richard St, Iowa City, IA 52240

Others with you: Francis Moore

Others before or after you: _____

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, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

We were walking the east-west dike when we saw two birds on the water at the west end of the largest water area at Sweet Marsh. We moved progressively closer using a 35x Celestron scope until the birds were opposite us. The following notes were made while watching the bird:

" 2x height and length of Red Duck. Long straight, heavy bill; base of bill yellow, tip darker. Top of head black including eye. Face gray to back of head in narrow band. Back of neck black; front and sides of neck reddish brown; lighter in front. Back and sides dark."



Similar species; how eliminated:

Size, large bill, gray face and red neck eliminate small grebes.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? No
If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), optical equipment.

Sunny, side light; 35x Celestron scope; 50 yards (est)

Previous experience with species and similar ones: have seen several in breeding plumage

References and persons consulted before writing description: none

How long before field notes made? While Viewing this form completed? 22 hours

Send completed form to Field Reports or CBC editor (address on back cover of Iowa Bird Life).