

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species Western Grebe 2. Number 6
3. Location Rush L., Osceola Co, IA
4. Date: 29 June 1981 5. Time Bird Seen: 8¹⁰ to 8²⁵
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):
Two adult and 4 half grown. Large grebe - twice as large as Pied-billed Grebes near them. Black-cap and back of neck and back, all white lower face, front of neck, breast and belly. Long heavy bill. Black appeared to include the eye. Young quite light colored. One raised a short stubby wing - 5-6 inches long. Obviously could not fly.
7. Description of voice, if heard: NA
8. Description of behavior: Swimming. Adults continuously diving and feeding young.
9. Habitat - general: Lake with extensive marshy edge.
specific: N. side of Lake
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:
None similar
11. Distance (how measured)? 200 yards (guess)
12. Optical equipment: 20x scope
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):
Sun at 90° angle from me
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:
Seen twice in Iowa, several times in West.
15. Other observers: none
16. Did the others agree with your identification?
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird:
Doug Hume saw the pair of adults here on June 2 but not since
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?
Notes dictated immediately. Copied next day. Form filled out 4 days later
- Signature: Thomas H. Kent Address: 211 Richards St
- Date: 7/3/81 City, State: Iowa City IA 52240