

DOCUMENTATION OF EXTRAORDINARY BIRD SIGHTING

Eared Grebe (1) 8 Apr 1984, Cedar L., Linn Co., Iowa

Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, Iowa 52240

Other observers: Carl Bendorf said Jim Fuller saw one here.

Time: 5:20 to 5:40 PM

Habitat: river bottom lake in city

A small grebe, different than two summer-plumaged Horned Grebes on the lake. The face is all dark, slightly lighter in the ear area (the area where the Eared Grebe patch is normally located). It has a definite tuft on top of the head, perhaps slightly forward of center. The bill is short, low on the face, and pointed. The back is dark and the sides slightly lighter. The belly is light shading to dark on the breast. The neck is all dark. The color is very non-descript dark. The back of the face and back of the head is slightly lighter.

Song: not heard

Behavior: swimming, occasionally diving.

Conditions: 100 yards (est); light rain; 20x scope.

Similar species: The head shape and small bill on this small dark grebe caught my eye. The neck and lower face were too dark for a winter-plumaged Horned Grebe.

Agreement: I have not talked with Jim Fuller.

Previous experience: many seen

References/time used: Looked at field guides when I got home.

Time of notes/typed: Dictated while viewing; typed 21 hours later.