

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Horned Grebe How many? 1Location? New Lake, Woodbury County, IowaType of habitat? Small Mo. River oxbow with marshy bordersWhen? date(s): 3-27-87 Possible early date time: 8 AM to 8:30 AM.Who? your name and address: Bob Livermore RR #1, Box 131, Sioux City, Iowa 51108others with you: nobodyothers before or after you: ¹⁾ Bill Huser ²⁾ 3-29; ³⁾ Jerry Probst ⁴⁻³⁻⁸⁷; Bob Livermore

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, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

A SINGLE Bird on the water with a Grebe-like silhouette. The bill did not look as if it was tilted. The bird was in winter plumage, although it had a distinguishable tuft that started on a line starting from behind the eye. The neck seemed to be very light from underneath the bill all the way to the water line. The tuft was yellow-gold in color. The remainder of the bird was light gray to dark gray. A near by pied billed grebe was comparable in size. The bird dove several times.

B.H. & J.P. observed the bird on Brown's Lake 1 mi. from New Lake (3-29). It was back on New Lake (4-3-87) B.L. AND WAS still present on 4-3-87. Never was seen flying or out of water.

Similar species and how eliminated: Eared Grebe: The tuft was starting on a line from the eye AND ABOVE. Also since the bird was mostly in winter plumage it still had a very light neck down to water line.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No!

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:
Excellent Visibility, Estimated distance 200' to 300'Bushnell 16x-48x zoom scope; 8x Binoculars.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

Familiar with both the Horned + Eared Grebe.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

PETERSON FIELD GUIDE; NATL GEOG. Birds. Bill Huser - Jerry Probst.How long before field notes made? 4hr this form completed? 3-29