

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Red-necked Grebe How many? oneLocation? Little Wall Lake, Hamilton CountyType of habitat? open lakeWhen? date(s): 12 April 1984 time: 5 p.m. to _____Who? your name and address: James Dinsmore, Dept. Animal Ecology, ISU, Ames, IA 50011others with you: Joe Schaufenbuel, Steve Dinsmore, Mark Dixonothers before or after you: Hank Zaletel, Eugene and Eloise Armstrong

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.

large grebe, seen close to scaup and other diving ducks, appeared to be larger than the other ducks near it but not considerably larger bird was bouncing in water a lot (strong wind) but three things did stand out relevant to identification

- bird had a fairly large, thick pointed bill
- neck showed a brownish red color on it, mainly on the front and sides but it didn't seem to extend all way around neck
- white patch extending from chin back on side of head and below eye but not going all way around the back of the head

the rest of the bird was basically dark brown in color

Similar species and how eliminated: Horned/Eared Grebe - size was too large and bill was too long, also no head or ear tufts (we saw a Horned Grebe a few minutes before finding this bird)

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? no

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:
20 power spotting scope, sky overcast with scattered showers so lighting was poor but we got to perhaps 250 yards from the bird

Previous experience with species and similar ones: have seen numerous Horned and Eared Grebes, have seen Red-necked only once before
References and persons consulted before writing description:

Robbins field guide, also Nat. Geographic guide
How long before field notes made? _____ this form completed? 20 hours

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