

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Red-necked Grebe How many? 1Location? Saylorville Reservoir, Polk CountyType of habitat? large body of waterWhen? date(s): 7 Nov. 1985 time: 8:35 A.M. to 10:15 A.M.Who? your name and address: Steve Dismore 4024 Arkansas Dr. Ames, IA 50010

others with you: _____

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

The bird was first sighted because its large size made it stand out as it swam with several Horned Grebes. The size, yellowish, rather large bill, gray back, white underparts, and reddish tinge on the back of the lower neck and shoulders identified it as a Red-necked Grebe. I am sure this bird was a different individual than the others sighted here in late October and early November (3 Nov.) because none of those other birds showed any trace of red on the shoulders or necks.

Similar species and how eliminated:

Horned and Western and Clark's Grebes eliminated by combination of size, large yellowish bill, ~~and~~ and reddish tinge on neck and shoulders.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain: _____

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

Light was excellent with the sun behind me ~~on~~ a clear sky.
Estimated viewing distance 150-200 yards. I used a B+L 20x spotting scope.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

I have seen Western, Red-necked, and Horned Grebes several times this fall.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

NBS Field Guide to Birds of North America

How long before field notes made? _____ this form completed? 8 hours

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