

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species: Red-necked Grebe

Number: 1 adult in alternate plumage

Location: Big Creek L., Polk Co., IA

Habitat: large lake

Date: 11 may 1996

Time: 9:50-10:35 a.m.

Observer: Stephen J. Dinsmore 4024 Arkansas Dr. Ames, IA 50014

Others who saw bird: Bery Engebretsen

Description of bird(s): A large, stocky, big-headed grebe, about 50% larger than a nearby coot. The stout bill was straight, pointed, and yellowish in color. The short body was mostly dark with some paler color along the flanks. The chest and foreneck were bright reddish-brown. The forehead, crown, and back of neck were dark. The bird had a very conspicuous white throat/cheek patch.

Similar species and how eliminated: The shape was obviously that of a grebe. The bird was much too large for a Horned or Eared grebe, both of which were seen within an hour of this sighting. The combination of large size, white throat/cheek patch, and bill size and color eliminates all other grebes.

Viewing conditions and equipment: Viewing conditions were excellent with partly cloudy skies and the sun behind us. Estimated viewing distance was 200-300m. I used a 20-60x spotting scope.

Previous experience with species: I have seen several other Red-necked Grebes in Iowa, plus numerous individuals in Massachusetts and North Carolina.

References consulted: none

How long before field notes made: none made

How long before this form completed: completed 10 hours after sighting