

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Red-necked Grebe (Podiceps grisegena) How many? 1 basic pl.

Location? Saylorville Reservoir, Polk Co.

Type of habitat? Open water on Saylorville Reservoir

When? date(s): October 26, 1985 time: 10:45 am to 10:50 am

Who? your name and address: Francis L. Moore, 336 Fairfield St., Waterloo, IA 50703

others with you: Robert Myers, Perry

others before or after you: None that I know of

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.

We noticed a large grebe with a darker looking neck than the Western Grebes that we had been watching. The back was about the same darkness as the Western Grebes. The birds neck did not seem as thin or as long as the Western Grebes did. The neck was darker in front than the Western's were. The head was large looking and flat-top looking with a crest-like area on the back of the head. It also did not seem to sit as low in the water as the Western's did.

Similar species and how eliminated: Western Grebe's neck is longer and thinner than this bird and is whiter on the front of the neck than this bird. Western's head is not crested toward the back of the head as in 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:

Sunny, very good viewing conditions from about 150 yards using Celestron C90 33X telescope.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Am familiar with Red-necked Grebe and have seen several Western Grebes.

References and persons consulted before writing description: None

How long before field notes made? 10 minutes this form completed? 7 hrs.

MAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City IA 52240