

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Red-necked Grebe How many? 1
 Location? Anderson Lake - East of Jewell - (Hamilton Co.)
 Type of habitat? Small marshy pond across R.R. tracks from big marsh
 When? date(s): July 4, 1996 time: 7:50 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
 Who? your name and address: Mark Proescholdt, Box 65, Liscomb, Iowa 50148
 others with you: none
 others before or after you: Henk Zatefel before me

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.

Hank found this bird and called me to let me know about it.

This brownish bird had a big, stout bill that was dark on top and yellow on the lower mandible. The bill was about the length of the head. The inside mouth color was light orange. The feet and leg were dark gray or black, and the feet may have been lobed. The head had 2 knobs on it - one above its dark eyes and one knob at the back of the head and it was flat in between the two knobs. It definitely was white on the throat. The neck was light brown in color. It was dark brownish on the back of the wings. A ♀ Wood Duck swam by in the background and was a little larger in size than the grebe. It had a thick stout neck which it held upright at least once but was usually pulled in. When preening, it flapped its wings some and definitely had some big white wing markings in the wings but I can't say for sure ^{where} they exactly were. It was white on the belly and below the water line on its plumage. Overall color was dark ten brown. I never have seen a bird in this plumage. It was diving often for a while and caught a big frog and swallowed it and then no more diving and it drank some water to wash the frog down. Out in open water a lot and then went into bushes.

Similar species and how eliminated:
 No other grebes are like this one.
 Not a duck.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NO

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:
 Good viewing conditions; Sun behind a cloud bank in the west but clear skies to east and south; Looking south; 30 yards away estimated; No glare from sun; 8x30 Binocs, 22x Scope.
 Previous experience with species and similar ones:
 Have seen breeding-plumaged adults in Iowa, N. Dakota, Minn., and Alaska.
 References and persons consulted before writing description:
 Natl. Geographic guide, R.T. Petersen's eastern guide
 How long before field notes made? Just after this form completed? July 15, 1996
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