

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species?Western Grebe

How Many?1

Location?Saylorville Reservoir

Habitat?large lake

Date?13 Sep 1986

Time?12:20-12:30 P.M.

Observers Name and address:Steve Dinsmore, Ames

Others who saw bird:none

Description of bird:A large, long-necked, black-and-white bird, superficially resembling a loon. Closer examination revealed the long, thin, light colored bill and solid dark back characteristic of a Western-type grebe. On this bird, the cheek was dark and this dark color included the eye. The bill was light, but specific color could not be seen. The birds throat, breast, and flanks were white.

Similar species and how eliminated:All loons were eliminated by the long neck, unmarked back, bill shape and color, and white flanks. Clark's Grebe was eliminated by the darker back and dark cheek which included the eye.

Viewing conditions and equipment:Viewing conditions were good-partly cloudy sky and sun directly overhead. Estimated viewing distance was 125-175 yards. I used a Bausch and Lomb 20x spotting scope.

Previous experience with species:I have seen both Western and Clark's Grebes in Iowa.

References consulted:NGS Field Guide to the Birds of North America

How long before field notes were made?none made

How long before this form was completed?1 week