

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Red-necked Grebe How many? 1Location? Little Wall Lake, Hamilton Co., IowaType of habitat? open lakeWhen? date(s): April 14, 1984 time: 2:45 to 3:10 P.M.Who? your name and address: Beth Proescholdtothers with you: Mark Proescholdtothers before or after you: Hank Zalatel, Cal + Bernie Knight, Jim + Pauline Mairs - many -

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.

A large bird, a bit larger than Lesser Scaup that it was near, it was short-bodied with a long thin reddish neck, held erect, with a triangular head, long tapered yellowish bill, black cap with "bulges" on each side when seen from the back, whitish cheeks, and a dark gray back. When it flew two white patches showed on each wing. All this indicated a Red-necked Grebe. When we first saw the bird it was across the lake bathing + ruffling its feathers, but soon was diving, then flying closer where it alternated diving with swimming.

Similar species and how eliminated: Horned Grebe; - this bird had a reddish neck like a Horned, but was much larger + had no golden ear tufts.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? no

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: heavy overcast, drizzle, wind - 1/8 mile approximately - binoculars + 22 power scopePrevious experience with species and similar ones: Several years ago I saw Red-necked Grebes in northern Minnesota quite often in June's.References and persons consulted before writing description: Field guides - Peterson's, Robbins, National GeographicHow long before 'field notes' made? at once this form completed? April 14th

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