

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species: Western Grebe

Number: 1

Location: Lake Panorama, Guthrie County, Iowa

Habitat: large lake

Date: 22 December 1998

Time: 8:07-9:32 a.m.

Observer: Stephen J. Dinsmore 612 ½ West Magnolia St. Fort Collins, CO 80521

Others who saw bird(s): Raymond L. Cummins

Description of bird(s): I was scanning the large Mallard flock near the northeast corner of the lake when I spotted an *Aechmophorus* grebe swimming near the ducks. The bird was very distinctive because of the black-and-white plumage, very slender body, and long, thin neck. The bird was slightly larger and much longer-necked than a Mallard. The forehead, crown, back of the neck, mantle, and wings were black. The flanks showed a small amount of gray color near the waterline. The belly was white, seen when the bird rolled over to preen. The throat and foreneck were white. The lores and the area surrounding the eye were black. The eye was red. The bill was very long, thin, straight, and dull yellow-green in color.

Similar species and how eliminated: Clark's Grebe was eliminated on the basis of dull yellow-green bill color and dark color around the eye. The longer neck, smaller body, and bill color eliminate all species of loons.

Previous experience with species: I am familiar with both Western and Clark's Grebes from birding in many western states, especially Nebraska, Colorado, and Montana.

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

References consulted: none

How long before field notes written? none written

How long before this form completed? written 4 January 1999