

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF  
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species Red-necked Grebe 2. Number 1
3. Location Coralville Lake, Johnson Co, Iowa
4. Date: 10-28-79 5. Time Bird Seen: 7<sup>40</sup> to 7<sup>45</sup>
6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field):  
A grebe as long as a coot but slimmer and longer necked. White face below level of eye, light gray neck and breast. Top of head dark gray to black with thin black line on back of neck and back same color as top of head. Long bill thin at tip, moderately thick at base with dark color on upper mandible, lighter on lower mandible. White patch in secondaries from above. In flight bird dark above, light below. Long back in flight with head held higher than neck. Red eye, head somewhat squarish in back.
7. Description of voice, if heard: not heard
8. Description of behavior: Flying, swimming, occasionally diving. Flew into flock of decoys and dove near shore in front of hunters. Then swam in open water toward me
9. Habitat - general: wide area of reservoir near shore  
specific: west of Jolly Roger recreation area
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:  
Smaller than Western Grebe, larger than Horned or Eared. Neck and bill longer than smaller grebe.
11. Distance (how measured)? 75 yards estimated by pacing a similar distance
12. Optical equipment: Leitz Tmovid 8x40  
Questar scope 60x
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):  
clear, sun behind observer
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:  
Seen several times on west coast and Alaska
15. Other observers:  
none
16. Did the others agree with your identification?
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird:
18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:  
Robbins consulted after making field notes
19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description?  
field notes 5 min. This write-up 6 hours later
- Signature: Thomas H Kent Address: 211 Richards St
- Date: 10-28-79 City, State: Iowa City Iowa 52240