

## DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Red-necked Grebe How many? 4Location? Hallett's Quarry, N. of Ames, Story CountyType of habitat? a large, very deep gravel pitWhen? date(s): 19 Oct. 1985 time: 12:15 AM to 12:30 AMWho? your name and address: Steve Dinsmore 4024 Arkansas Dr. Ames IA 50010others with you: Kraig Downs, Amesothers before or after you: Jim Dinsmore, Paul Martsching, Eric Munson, all of Ames

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.

The birds, two adults and two young, were first noticed because of the definite grebe-like appearance and large size. The birds were slightly larger with a longer neck and bigger head than a nearby Ruddy Duck.

One of the adult birds still had quite a bit of ~~red~~ reddish color on its neck and head. The other adult was in winter plumage with white underparts and throat, dark back and back of neck, and a dark head with a somewhat obvious white crescent mark on the cheek. The two young birds were identical to the winter adult, except that they had two dark stripes on the cheek, instead of a white crescent. All of the birds were chunky, long necked, large headed, and had a thick, yellow bill almost the length of the head. One of the birds was seen to raise its wings and the large white patch on the trailing edge of the secondaries was clearly seen.

Similar species and how eliminated: Other grebes or loons eliminated by the combination of a large yellow bill, reddish color on neck and head (1 bird), white crescent on cheek (1 bird), striping on cheek (2 birds), large size, large head, and white wing patch.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain: —

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:  
light was good, even though it was mostly overcast. Estimated viewing distance of about 80 yards. I used a B+L 20x spotting scope.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

References and persons consulted before writing description:  
I have seen Red-necked Grebes in Iowa and Minnesota in the past two years.

How long before field notes made? NGS Field Guide to Birds of N. America this form completed? 2 hours

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