

DOCUMENTATION FORM  
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

What species? Red-necked Grebe How many? 1

Location? East-west dike on north side of Zirbel Slough, Cerro Gordo Co., Ia

Type of Habitat? Small open pool in dense marsh. Pool at base of dike.

When? date(s): 4 August, 1988 time: 8:14 PM to 8:24 PM

Who? your name and address: Jan L. Walter 934-13<sup>th</sup> St. S.E. Mason City, Ia 50401

Others with you: Jim Walter

Others before or after you: None

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, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

Much larger than Pied-billed Grebes on same pool, larger than nearby Blue-winged Teal. Bill-yellowish, heavy, tapered, much longer than Pied-billed's. Head-top flat with knob at back. Head longer than high. Forehead and crown dark. Cheeks grayish-white crossed by 2 dark streaks from back of crown forward to bill and chin. Neck-relatively long and thick. Nape-dark. Front and sides-pale reddish. Back-light gray, possibly due to light angle. Wing-Same as back. Throat-grayish-white.

Voice-not heard

Behavior-Only head and neck above water when first seen. Partially or totally submerged about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the time. Did not dive. Submerged by slowly sinking straight down. Surfaced by slowly rising. Completely surfaced twice, once briefly and once for about 1-2 minutes. Did not move far from where first seen.

Similar species; how eliminated: Shape and behavior of Grebe. Size eliminated Pied-billed, Eared, and Horned Grebes. Reddish instead of white neck and thicker, heavier bill eliminated Western Grebe.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? No

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions; give lighting, distance (how measured), optical equipment.

We were looking SW, light from late evening sun came from NW.

Distance-about 30 yards (guess)

8X40 and 7X35 binoculars

Previous experience with species and similar ones: none with Red-necked Grebe. Pied-billeds are present in area every summer and abundant during migration. Have seen a few Eared, Horned, and Westerns. See many Pied-billeds every year.

References and persons consulted before writing description: Birds of North America, Golden Press  
Birds of North America, National Geographic Society after returning to car.

How long before field notes made? Right away this form completed? 1 DAY

Send completed form to Field Reports or CBC editor (address on back cover of Iowa Bird Life).