

## DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Red-necked Grebe How many? 4Location? Hallett Quarry, north side of AmesType of habitat? deep freshwater gravel pitWhen? date(s): 19 October 1985 time: 1:00 to 1:10 p.m.Who? your name and address: Jim Dinsmore, Amesothers with you: Erik Munson, Paul Martsching both of Amesothers before or after you: Steve Dinsmore

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.

Four grebe-like birds, swimming with Ruddy Duck; grebes about same size as Ruddy or slightly larger, somewhat slimmer in general appearance

Color-basically light below, dirty brown above

Birds did not dive but did see exposed wing when one bird preened and a distinct white patch was evident on secondaries

Bill distinctly not duck shaped; was straight and about  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{1}{3}$  the length of the head, sharp pointed, bright orange at base and dark at end

Head-dark above with lower half or so distinctly light color, dark color surrounded the eye

Two of the birds were young birds as there was a distinct dark stripe from the eye going back and down and cutting into the white area below the ear

One of the birds appeared to have a bit of a reddish brown wash on the neck

Similar species and how eliminated:

ducks in general-bill shape; Western Grebe (Clark's too)-too small in comparison to Ruddy; Horned and Eared Grebe-bill length and shape

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? no

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:

overcast but sun was overhead so lighting was fair; about 200 yards away (estimated); used 20-45 scope

Previous experience with species and similar ones: have seen all of grebes except Clark's; have seen Red-necked in MN and in Iowa in last two years

References and persons consulted before writing description:

Harrison-Seabirds

How long before field notes made? \_\_\_\_\_ this form completed? 2 hours

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