

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species Red-necked Grebe 2. Number: one
3. Location Saylorville
4. Date: 11/1/87 5. Time Bird seen: about 10:15 AM to 5 minutes
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): While looking for waterbirds in the fog, a large Grebe popped up and sat for a few minutes at about 50 feet. Grey neck, white crescent under throat and behind ears were clear. We followed Grebe with boat for about 5 minutes before losing in fog. It flew a short distance one. White scapulars were easily ~~white~~ visible. I could not see a second white area. On a closer dive the bill was noted to be yellow, especially lower mandible and base.
7. Description of voice, if heard: none
8. Description of behavior: diving, flew briefly
9. Habitat - general: Saylorville
specific: off Cherry Glen boat ramp
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain:
Western - neck was gray, not white anteriorly
Horned - larger, gray neck, long yellow bill
Scaup - larger, less white crescent
11. Distance (how measured)? as close as 50 feet
(estimate)
12. Optical equipment: 8x40
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):
Fog
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:
Western are regular on Saylorville; as are Horned.
15. Other observers: Steve Dinsmore
16. Did the others agree with your identification? yes
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: Steve Dinsmore
18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:
Peterson, Robbins
19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? 7 hours

Rory Engelbrecht
Signature

Address: 6492 James Francis Pl

Date: 11/1/87

City, State: Johnston, Ia 50131