

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species?Horned Grebe

How Many?1-in winter plumage

Location?lagoons at Oakland, Pottawattamie Co.

Habitat?swimming and feeding on small lagoon

Date?16 Aug 1987

Time?late afternoon

Observers Name and address:Steve Dinsmore 4024 Arkansas Dr. Ames, IA  
50010

Others who saw bird:Andy Fix

Description of bird:Bird was swimming with about a hundred Blue-winged Teal and was roughly the same size as the teal. The shape and bold black and white pattern identified the bird as a Horned/Eared grebe in winter plumage. The cheek, throat, front of the neck, flanks, and underparts were white. The rest of the bird(the upperparts) were black. The bill was dark, short, and moderately thick. The crown was quite flat. On the basis of these features, we easily identified the bird as a Horned Grebe in winter plumage.

Similar species and how eliminated:Eared Grebe eliminated by the thicker bill, flatter crown, and entirely white throat and breast.

Viewing conditions and equipment:Viewing conditions were excellent with a clear sky and good light. Estimated viewing distance was about 100 yards. I used a Bushnell 20-45x spotting scope.

Previous experience with species:I have seen numerous Horned and Eared grebes in Iowa.

References consulted:none

How long before field notes were made?none made

How long before this form was completed?6 hours