

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species?Red-necked Grebe

How Many?1

Location?Saylorville Reservoir-near Jester Park

Habitat?large lake

Date?29 Sep 1986

Time?5:05-5:25 P.M.

Observers Name and address:Steve Dinsmore, Ames

Others who saw bird:none

Description of bird:The bird was first noticed because of its large size compared to the several Pied-billed Grebes with which it was swimming. The bird was about 1 1/2 times as large as a Pied-billed Grebe and much stockier. The general body shape was as follows; short, stocky body low to the water, long neck, and a large head. The back and top of head were dark. The chin was white and was clearly set off from the buffy neck and breast. The buffy color was somewhat faded, suggesting a bird molting into basic plumage. The bill was quite thick, about as long as the head, and yellowish in color. The birds flanks were a grayish-white, much lighter than the back.

Similar species and how eliminated:The combination of large size, buffy color on the neck and breast, white throat, and yellowish bill eliminates all other grebes.

Viewing conditions and equipment:Viewing conditions were good-sun behind me and sky partly cloudy. Estimated viewing distance was 100-125 yards. I used a Buschnell 25x spotting scope.

Previous experience with species:I have seen several Red-necked Grebes in Iowa, including no fewer than 8 individuals last fall and 2 this spring.

References consulted:NGS Field Guide to the Birds of North America

How long before field notes were made?none made

How long before this form was completed?3 hours