

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF  
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species Red-necked Grebe (Podiceps grisegena) 2. Number 1
3. Location Saylorville Res. (Polk Co.), Ia.
4. Date: 10-21-85 5. Time Bird Seen: 10:00 AM to 10:15 AM
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):  
Fairly large grebe - much larger than pied-billed grebes also there. About same length as a ring-billed gull resting on water nearby. Basically dark on crown, back of neck and back. A light (white or light gray) cheek <sup>area</sup> could be seen which took up most of side of head. Throat + front of neck darkish (gray maybe) but not as dark as back of neck. Bill was fairly long and heavy and appeared dark at the long range view. Head was not round but squared off at back in profile. Bird had long but fairly heavy neck. I thought of western grebe at first but neck was not long <sup>or thin</sup> enough and bird was probably too small. I moved to another location to get a closer view of bird and then could not relocate it.
7. Description of voice, if heard: NOT HEARD
8. Description of behavior: SWIMMING, DIVING, PREENING
9. Habitat - general: Large reservoir - bird was way out but I don't know how deep  
specific: water is there as there were also pied-billed grebes + cormorants present also. May be fairly shallow at that point.
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:  
Too small and short necked for western grebe and too big with much too big of a bill for horned grebe.
11. Distance (how measured)? Long way out - 300 to 400 yds? - by guess + by gosh
12. Optical equipment: 25x and 40x scope
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):  
Overcast day - not best lighting - fog had just lifted so I could see across lake
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: I have seen 2 red-necks in breeding plumage.
15. Other observers: Steve Dinsmore reported one (also winter plum.) on 10-20-85 just to the north of Big Creek + it was flying south. Maybe same bird??
16. Did the others agree with your identification? —
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: —
18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:  
NBS guide - Bird looked lot like the winter plumage picture but throat and front of neck did not seem to be as white as pictured
19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? 10-21 eve.
- Signature: Robert K. Myers Address: P.R. 2, Box 153
- Date: 10-22-85 City, State: Perry, Iowa 50220