

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species: Red-necked Grebe

Number: 1 adult in alternate plumage

Location: Saylorville Res., Polk Co., IA

Habitat: large lake

Date: 11 May 1996

Time: 12:05-12:40 p.m.

Observer: Stephen J. Dinsmore 4024 Arkansas Dr. Ames, IA 50014

Others who saw bird: Bery Engebretsen

Description of bird(s): I was scanning the lake when I noticed a lone grebe off Cherry Glen. I immediately recognized the bird as a Red-necked Grebe because of the large size and head/neck pattern. It was a very large, big-headed grebe, noticeably larger than nearby coots and a Horned Grebe. It was also stouter and bigger-headed than a nearby Western Grebe. The bill was straight, yellowish in color, and roughly equal to the length of the head. The upperparts were dark. The chest and foreneck were bright reddish-brown, contrasting with the darker upperparts. The crown and back of neck were dark. This bird also had a very conspicuous white throat/cheek patch and lacked any "ear tufts".

Similar species and how eliminated: The large size and bill color and size all eliminate other grebes. Note that we had just seen another Red-necked Grebe on nearby Big Creek L. 2 hours earlier.

Viewing conditions and equipment: Viewing conditions were good, but at a great distance. Estimated viewing distance was >400m. I used a 20-60x spotting scope.

Previous experience with species: Very familiar with this species from Iowa, Massachusetts, and North Carolina.

References consulted: none

How long before field notes made: none made

How long before this form completed: completed 10 hours after sighting