

CSC

DOCUMENTATION FORM  
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

What Species? Eared Grebe (winter plumage) How many? 2

Location? Rathbun Dam Appanoose Co.

Type of Habitat? Rocky shore face of dam

When? Date(s): 12/15/90, also 12/17/90&12/19/90 time: 10:00am to 10:05am

Who? Ray Cummins

Others with you: Paul & Deb Egeland Count Day

Others before or after you: Marj & Bill Heusinkveld & Mark Hoffman

Description: Winter plumaged white and black grebes. The birds had thin dark bills. The red eye was in the blackish top of the head. A grayish ear covert extend from below the eye to the hindneck. Each side had a large oblong white patch on sideneck and hindneck this was prominent. Another thin white mark extend from the bill to about half way down the ear covert. The foreneck, sideneck, and hindneck were gray except for: 1) the black of the crown extended thinly to about half way down the neck where it blended into the grayish of the neck. 2) the grayish was completely around the neck in the middle. 3) the foreneck turn whitish as neck combined with breast. The back was dark gray, but not as dark as the crown. The side behind the side neck was whitish to the tail. I went back two times after count day to study this bird because I was convinced it would be a Horned Grebe, but all the field marks including the subtle difference in size an shape supported Eared Grebe forcing me to change my mind.

Similar species: how eliminated: See above.

Did anyone disagree or have reservations about the identification? yes  
If yes; explain: Because Marj and Mark insisted that this was a Eared Grebe and Gene Armstrong thought it was a Horned Grebe I went back twice to check these birds out. They are definitely Eared Grebes.

Viewing conditions: 50yds with a Kowa 20x to 60x Spotting Scope.  
Took pictures, but dought if they will be diagnostic because of the equipment.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: I am familiar with both species from Iowa.

How long before field notes were made? during This form completed? 1hr

