

DOCUMENTATION FORM
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

What species? Red-necked Grebe How many? 1
Location? Union Slough Nat. Wild. Refuge middle of the largest pool
Type of Habitat? _____
When? date(s): Aug 28, 1990 time: 7:30 to 7:40 AM
Who? your name and address: Mathew Kenne 709 N. Phillips Algona, Ia. 50511
Others with you: none
Others before or after you: none

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

Duck-type bird diving repeatedly. Bigger than Pied-billed Grebe + B.W. Teal, but smaller than Mallard. All nearby but not in scope together. Neck longer than duck, with large tapered (dagger-like) bill, dull yellowish. Dark gray back, back of neck, top of head. Faint facial markings like young Pied-billed Grebe. Throat + face lighter colored than back, sides of breast + belly off-white. Took 2 short, low flights over water surface showing white secondaries. Neck held low in flight like D.C. ~~Cormorant~~ Cormorant. I left bird to continue water fowl survey.

Similar species; how eliminated:

Not highly contrasted black + white like western. Smaller bird with thicker neck, ~~head~~ Head wasn't pointed or peaked like western. Bigger than Pied-billed with longer neck, different beak. Shorter-bodied than loon, longer necked, different facial markings. Bigger bird than Horned Grebe, longer ~~bill~~ lighter colored bill.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? NA
If yes, explain:

later, after looking at Field Guide

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), optical equipment.

Early morning hazy sunshine, sunlight from behind me. 15*45x scope car-mounted - 100 yds. (est.)

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

First time with Red-necked, seen Westerns 3 times in this area.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

none

How long before field notes made? during this form completed? 4 hrs.
observation

Send completed form to Field Reports or CBC editor (address on back cover of Iowa Bird Life).