

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species Red-necked Grebe 2. Number: four
3. Location Hallet's Quarry - Ames, Story County, Iowa
4. Date: 19 October 1985 5. Time Bird seen: 12:45 to 1:05
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):

Grebes much bigger than nearby Ruddy Duck; stocky build; longish neck; thick long yellow beak--darker at tip; a bit 'flat headed'. The best marked adult had white chin & cheek patch with dark rust neck down to water line in front & otherwise sort of brownish gray - back, wings, & sides. The other adult had less obvious chin&cheek patch; ~~hardly~~ hardly any rust on neck - was pretty much all brownish gray except for cheek patch - did have large thick yellow bill. 2 young birds very near same size as ~~adults~~ adults but with 2 strong dark stripes on sides of head & upper neck. *Quite different from young Pied-bills.*

7. Description of voice, if heard: *Young birds general color brown.*
not heard
8. Description of behavior: slowing paddling around; sleeping with heads tucked up, a good bit of the time.
9. Habitat - general: gravel & sand quarry pit.
specific:

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain:
Horned Grebe-much smaller; beak dark; in summer does not have white cheek patch; in winter has lot of white on side of head and all down neck.
Eared Grebe-much smaller; beak much smaller; in summer has 'topknot' & yellow on side of head; in winter cheek dark.

11. Distance (how measured)? *Pied Billed - much smaller; beak not right shape; is more brown; stripes on young not*
350-500 ft guessed
12. Optical equipment: *the*
7x35 & 20x80 binoculars *same.*
10x spotting scope
3. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):
partly cloudy; sun to south, birds to west of me
4. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:
Saw one in August at Waubay in South Dakota.

5. Other observers: Steve Dinsmore, Jim Dinsmore, Eric Munson

6. Did the others agree with your identification? yes

7. Other observers who independently identified this bird:

8. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description

A Field Guide To The Birds & Bird Of North America
also Jim Dinsmore had a book that showed the immature which the other two books didn't show.

9. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description?
notes immediately

Carl Matzsch
Signature Address: 1120 Marston

Date: 10 Nov 1985 City, State: Ames, Iowa 50010