

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? RED NECKED GREBE How many? (1)Location? CORALVILLE RESERVOIR (MENAFKEY BRIDGE AREA)Type of habitat? RESERVOIRWhen? date(s): 11/15/86 time: 9:20 to 9:30 AM
7:30 to 7:45 AMWho? your name and address: JIM FULLER, 6 LONGVIEW KNOLL, IOWA CITYothers with you: CHARLES FULLER

others before or after you: _____

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, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

THE WATER BIRD'S BODY SAT LOW ON THE WATER, BUT HAD A RELATIVELY LONG NECK. THE ONLY SIZE COMPARISON WAS WITH A PAIR OF NEARBY COMMON LOONS AND THIS BIRD WAS ABOUT 2/3 RDS THE SIZE. THE GENERAL COLOR WAS DARK GRAY ON THE BACK, LIGHT FLANKS AND A GRAY NECK AND TOP OF HEAD. THERE WAS A WHITE CHEEK PATCH WHICH WAS NOT WELL DEFINED AND THE BREAST (WHEN FACING) WAS LIGHT. THE BILL WAS RATHER THICK AT THE BASE AND LONG WITH A SHARP TIP. BILL COLOR WAS MOSTLY YELLOW-ORANGE WITH A DARKER TIP. THE DISTANCE AT WHICH THE BIRD WAS OBSERVED MADE IT DIFFICULT TO GET ANY MORE DETAIL. THE BIRD WAS ONLY OBSERVED SITTING ON THE WATER.

Similar species and how eliminated: HORNED GREBE - LARGER SIZE AND NOT ENOUGH WHITE ON NECK. ALSO SHORTER NECK + BILL + LIGHT BILL COLOR
WESTERN GREBE - SMALLER SIZE + NOT ENOUGH WHITE ON NECK. FLANKS WERE LIGHT.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NO

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: CLEAR SKY - SUN BEHIND VIEWER. 20X SCOPE. VIEWED AT 125-200 YARDS.Previous experience with species and similar ones: ONLY SEEN IN BREEDING PLUMAGE.References and persons consulted before writing description: PETERSON + NAT'L GEOG. GUIDESHow long before field notes made? 5 MINUTES this form completed? 7 HOURS

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