

## DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Red-necked Grebe How many? 1Location? Little Wall Lake Hamilton Co. IowaType of habitat? natural lake in the middle of a farming areaWhen? date(s): April 14, 1984 time: 7:20 Am to 7:30 Am

Who? your name and address: \_\_\_\_\_

Thomas J. Staudt  
931 North Summit  
Iowa City, IA 52240others with you: Carl Benderf, Tom Kentothers before or after you: Hank Zaletei

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 head of the bird was very flat and sharply cut off at the back. The crown was black and crested and extended from the base of the bill through the eye and to the nape.

The bill was almost as long as the head, straight, thick, and dark with a yellow base.

The chin, upper throat, and cheeks were a whitish gray and formed an egg shaped patch.

The neck was long and fairly thin, red-orange in color on the front and sides. The hind neck was darker. The breast was an orange-gray color. Back, wings, and sides were a dark gray to black color. The belly was white.

The bird was larger in size than the Lesser Scaup it was near.

## Similar species and how eliminated:

Western Grebe is similar in size but has a white neck and breast, black cap but no crest. Horned grebes were present, are smaller, much shorter billed, and in breeding plumage have black cheeks. Loons are larger and have short thicker necks.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NO

If yes, explain:

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

overcast, we were looking eastward, the sun was no problem to viewing.

40-257rd The bird was swimming away  
20X scope

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

no previous experience with Red-necked Grebe, About five sightings of western Grebe, numerous sightings of Horned Grebes.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

How long before field notes made? right after sighting this form completed? same day as sighting

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