

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Horned Grebe How many? oneLocation? TAMA, IOWA. The surfaced road as it turns west from the airport.Type of habitat? flooded roadside ditchWhen? date(s): 19 MARCH 1986 time: 3:30 to 3:50 PM (est.)Who? your name and address: NICK A. KUBIK, Rt. 2, TAMA, IA. 52339others with you: noneothers 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, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

A swimming and diving bird with a long slender neck; smaller than a scaup duck, of which there were many in the area to compare with. The most obvious markings were the red side; and the white front of the neck. Upon closer inspection, the eye was seen to be red, the top of the head dark green, and large ear patches of yellow. The back of the bird, as well as the cheeks - were charcoal gray. The back of the neck was black and the side of the neck was a white line, extending up like that of a Pintail duck. The bird appeared to be tailless; the rear being whitish. It skittered on the water before becoming airborne. It seemed to exhibit whitish "speculum" patches on the wings.

Similar species and how eliminated: The Eared Grebe should have a gray neck in winter or a black neck in summer, but not white.Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? not applicable

If yes, explain:

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

Broad Daylight, 15 feet (less than the length of my vehicle), 7x35 binocularsPrevious experience with species and similar ones: noneReferences and persons consulted before writing description: HANK ZALETAL, brieflyHow long before field notes made? AT THE TIME this form completed? 28 MARCH 1986

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