

CLARK

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Red-necked Grebe How many? OneLocation? Smith Lake ~ 3mi. North of Algona IAType of habitat? Open Water of Smith LakeWhen? date(s): April 17, 1984 time: 1300 to 1310Who? your name and address: Joe Clark - Union Slough NR; Titonka IA 50780others with you: Brian Moore - Smith Lake County park assistant

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.

It was a large grebe with red neck, dark back, white upper neck + white cheeks, it had dark top of head with tufts. Had mottled sides to water-line. Light yellowish beak. Beak was pointed and heavy, low profile in water with a long neck.

Bird was diving while observed.

Similar species and how eliminated: Western Grebe - shorter thicker red neck + white cheek patch stuck out like a sore thumb,
Horned or eared grebe - much larger, longer neck, white cheek patch

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:
 Clear day, About 100yds. Bushnell variable 20-45X spotting Scope
 Used 20-35XPrevious experience with species and similar ones: Have seen Western, Horned & Pied-billed Grebes previously.References and persons consulted before writing description: Golden 1hr. after observation. At time of observation this form completed? 1 month
Description written from memory and field notes. I did consult

MAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City IA 52240