

2-95-4

Accepted (7-0)

DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD SIGHTING

Species: Red-necked Grebe

Date(s): Dec. 16, 1995

Time seen: 3:50:4:15 p.m.

Locality: Chatfield Res., east side between Heron overlook & marina.

Latilong: 11

Optical equipment Binoculars & 25X scope.

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: Unk. Plumage: Winter

Light conditions: Cloudy bright but flat light.

Distance from bird, how measured: 200 yards and farther.

Weather at time of observation: Cloudy.

Prior weather & number of days since change: No storms for several days.

Habitat: Reservoir.

Behavior of bird: Mostly sitting in water; dove occasionally. Moved away from shore when some boats came by.

Detailed description of bird: Smaller than Pacific Loon seen in same scope view but not substantially smaller (70-80% of the size of the Pacific Loon). Bill and neck lengths most persuasive to identification.

- * Long bill, as long as the head; tapered.
- * Black cap with a more or less straight line from bill through eye to back of head.
- * White cheek and chin;
- * Dusky patch on neck below white cheek/chin patch
- * White below dusky patch to water line; (pattern from head to water: black, white, dark, white. When viewed from back, neck all dark with no white visible.
- * Dark back and body.

Field marks not seen: No colors discerned, such as, possibly, red color on neck or bill color.

Bird's calls or song: Silent

Similar species: Western and Clark's Grebes: have longer necks, all white fore necks. Horned & Eared Grebes: have shorter bills, shorter necks, different neck patterns.

Prior experience: Red-necked: Once before with winter plumage; Western & Clark's, lots; Eared and Horned, a fair amount.

Description from notes made at the time of observation.



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