

1997-8
accepted 7-0

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species: Red-necked Grebe

Number: 1 basic adult

Location: Douglas Reservoir, Larimer Co., CO

Habitat: large lake

Date: 10 November 1997

Time: 3:35-4:02 p.m.

Observer: Stephen J. Dinsmore 612 1/2 W. Magnolia St. Fort Collins, CO 80521

Others who saw bird: none

Description of bird(s): When I arrived at the lake, I soon noticed a "different" grebe swimming with a small group of Western Grebes. I immediately recognized the bird as a Red-necked Grebe in basic plumage. The following description was written several hours later. The bill was stout and thicker than the bill of a nearby Western Grebe. The bill was equal to the length of the head and was mostly dark with some pale yellow color at the base of the lower mandible. The forehead, crown, nape, and upperparts were dark-colored. The chin and throat were white, and this white color extended upwards across the cheek forming a conspicuous pale "crescent". The foreneck was light gray, but darker than the throat. There was also some lighter gray color visible on the flanks.

Similar species and how eliminated: The size, shape, and plumage identified the bird as a grebe. The large size eliminates all of the smaller grebes, especially Horned and Eared. The thicker bill, bigger-headed appearance, overall shape, and distinct crescent across the cheek eliminated Western Grebe (under direct comparisons).

Viewing conditions and equipment: Viewing conditions were excellent with cloudy skies and the sun behind me. Estimated viewing distance was 200m. I used a 20-60x spotting scope.

Previous experience with species: I have seen this species many times in the upper Midwest, plus hundreds in Massachusetts and North Carolina.

References consulted: none

How long before field notes made: none written

How long before this form completed: completed 10 November 1997