

1999 - 5

ACCEPT 7-0

## Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form

CFO-RC FILE X: \_\_\_\_\_  
RESULTS: \_\_\_\_\_

Rec 2/99 upl  
(1 photo)

Species (please include common and scientific name): Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*)

Date(s) of Observation: December 13, 1998

Number of birds seen: 1      Sex: Unknown      Plumage: immature

Exact location: Colorado River Wildlife Area (a unit of Colorado River State Park)

County: Mesa      Nearest town: Clifton      Elevation: approx. 4700 ft.

Length of observation: about 1 hour

Time(s) of observation: 11-12 a.m.

Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you:

Coen Dexter found the bird. Aileen Roberts, Mike Henwood, Tom Moran, Bob Moston and others.

Other Observers who independently saw the bird(s): Many observers

Light Conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s); position): Bright sunlight at mid day. Sun high in the sky.

Optical equipment used: 10x40 binoculars, 15-60x scope.

Distance from bird(s) (estimated unless otherwise noted): As close as 75 feet.

Was bird(s) photographed? Yes      Have you submitted photos? Yes

Who took the photographs? Rich Levad.

Describe the general and specific habitat in which the bird(s) occurred: Along an open strip of water—20 ft wide or so—on a frozen lake.

Describe the bird's behavior (flying, feeding, habits, behaviors used in identifying the species or in supporting the identification):

The bird fed actively, swimming with its head submerged as a loon does, and occasionally diving.

## **Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form**

**page 2**

**Describe the bird in detail. This is the most important part of this report. Include the overall size and shape and how you placed the bird in the general group that you did. Give complete details of plumage, including head, throat, undersides, nape, back, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird(s). Describe other important details, such as color and shape of bill, legs, eye, (etc.) that were important in making the identification. (Fill out this portion even if photographs are submitted; you may attach additional sheets, drawings, field sketches or copy field notes):**

A mid size grebe with muted brownish gray plumage. Head smoothly rounded. Cap and hind neck dark brown or blackish. Back darker than breast, neck, and head. A hint of a white chin strap. Large, straight, yellowish bill. Underparts whitish. See attached photo.

**Describe birds call or song:** Silent.

**Discuss similar species and how you eliminated them:** The large yellowish bill is quite unlike any other grebe, and the bird was much smaller than any loon.

**What is your prior experience with this and similar-appearing species?** I had not seen this bird in this plumage previously.

**List books, guides, recordings or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation):** National Geographic, Peterson Western. Confirmed immature plumage.

This report was made from notes made during observation..

**Date of written report:** February 26, 1999.

**Reporting observer:** Rich Levad

**Address:** 2924 Ronda Lee Rd  
Grand Junction, CO 81503

**Signature:**



Send report to:  
Colorado Birds Record Committee  
c/o Bill Lisowsky  
2919 Silverplume Dr.  
Ft. Collins, Co. 80526

