

Rec'd 8/99 wpt

1999 - 6

CFO-RC-FILE#: _____

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS SIGHT RECORD FORM

Results: ACCEPT 7-0

Species: Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*
(Common Name) (Scientific Name)

Date(s) of occurrence: January 30, 1999

Number of birds seen: 1

Sex: Unknown

Plumage: Basic

Exact location: Hamilton Reservoir (at Rawhide Power Plant)

Elevation: Approx. 5000 feet

County: Larimer

Nearest town: Buckeye, CO

Length of Observation: About 15 min.

Time(s) of Observation: Off and on between 11:00 am and 12 noon

Other observers who saw the bird with you: None

Other observers who independently saw the bird(s): Dave Leatherman, Sherry Chapman, BB Hahn, others

Light conditions [quality; direction relative to bird(s) position]:

Excellent light due to clear sky, midday sun. I observed the bird from the lake's south side looking north with the sun from the south.

Optical equipment used: Swift Panther 15-45x zoom telescope

Distance from bird (estimated unless otherwise noted):
300 m

Was the bird photographed? No.

If so, have you submitted photos?

Who took the photographs?

Describe the general and specific habitat in which the bird(s) occurred:

Unfrozen lake/reservoir situated in rolling plains characterized by cattle pasture and short-grass prairie. Lake serves major power plant.

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

Swimming on open water, diving and feeding on small fish.

Describe the bird in detail: This is the most important part of this report. Include 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 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 of field notes):

A medium-sized grebe intermediate in size between horned grebe (HOGR) and western grebe (WEGR), both of which accompanied this bird (15 HOGR, 30 WEGR. Its shape, that is the length of the neck in relation to the size of the body was similar to loon spp. Its plumage was a combination various shades of gray, from very light gray (almost white) to dark gray, as follows: The head was dark gray with the exception of a very light gray (almost white) throat and lower cheek extending back to about the position of the ear, but not onto the nape (see sketch). The hind neck was dark gray, but lighter on the foreneck. The gray on the foreneck was darker than the whitish throat. The breast was whitish. The back and wings were dark gray. The bill was intermediate in length between HOGR and WEGR, slate-gray in color with a yellowish base.

Discuss similar species and how you eliminated them:

Horned Grebe: Size was too big, bill was too long, bill had yellowish base, foreneck was gray instead of white, cap was not black, white cheek did not extend to eye level.

Eared Grebe: Size too big, bill was too long, bill had yellowish base, cheek had too much white

Western/Clark's Grebe: Size was too small, cap was not black, white cheek did not extend to or beyond eye level, foreneck was gray instead of white.

Red-throated loon: Size was too small, white cheek did not extend above eye, foreneck was gray instead of white, contrasting with lighter cheek.

Other loons: Size too small.

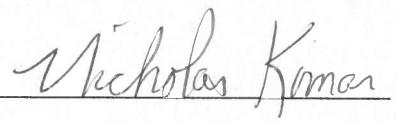
What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

Observed this species on several occasions during winter in coastal locations of Massachusetts, but not recently. I have observed numerous (hundreds to thousands) individuals of other grebe species in Colorado within the last two years.

List books, guides, recordings, or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation): National Geographic Field Guide to Birds, supported this identification during the observation.

This report was made from notes taken during X, or after observation, or later from memory .

Reporting observer: Nicholas Komar

Signature: 

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Mail to:

BILL LISOWSKY
Records Committee Chair
2919 Silverplume Drive
Fort Collins, CO 80526

2:15 pm

1/30/99

11:00 - 12⁰⁰

Multon Res., Lawrence County

Dark gray cap

Throat

grayish white

extending onto neck

Neck gray

breast white



~200 15

yellowish
base

~~~200~~ 30

10

30

~1000

Remained of body

20

Intermediate in size

~800

betw. HOGR, WGR.

1

Almost loon shaped.

-1!

WELD CR 114, 45

12<sup>45</sup> - 100

1 Δ 1 Δ 17

1 - 48

2 - 200