

COLORADO RARE BIRD REPORT

RED-NECKED GREBE

Podiceps grisegenaLocation: Pueblo Reservoir; Pueblo; Pueblo County; ColoradoDate: November 13 - December 5, 1999

This bird was found by Brandon Percival on a previous date and seen subsequent to December 5. I do not know the inclusive dates.

Background:

This bird was seen by scores of birders. I saw it several times under a variety of viewing conditions and distances. On November 13 it was sunny. I watched it from 10:20 - 10:30 a.m. at 250 - 400 yards distance. On December 5 it was much closer, about 100 yards. I used a Kowa TSN-4 scope (20-60x).

Description:

It was a first winter bird. This bird was not very active; mainly swimming with a few Eared, Horned and Western grebes. Overall the bird was medium-sized, about 15" long. It was larger than the Horned Grebes nearby, but not quite as large nor as long-necked as the Western Grebes. The head, bill and body size were roughly comparable to Aechmophorus grebes but the neck was much shorter and thicker. In size and shape it was between Horned and Western Grebe. The head was a different shape than the Western -- flatter and more elongated, with a flatter, less angled forehead. The bill was long, slightly drooping, medium-stout and with a dull orangish-yellow base. It was gray on the uppersides. It had a dusky, dirty white foreneck and cheek patch.

Similar Species:

Ducks are ruled out by their spatulate bill. Mergansers lack the white cheek patch and reddish foreneck. Loons are larger, longer and lower and lack the distinctive face pattern. Horned and Eared grebes are distinctly smaller (not approximately the size of a Clark's Grebe), smaller billed, and lack the combination of white cheek and yellow base to the bill. The Aechmophorus grebes were in direct comparison, and were much longer-necked, longer and thinner-billed.

Experience with Species:

I have seen all species of grebes and loons in Colorado and have extensive experience with Red-necked Grebes in other states (Washington and California).

This report is prepared from notes made at the time of observation.

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Rec 1/20/00 wpl

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