

Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form

(This is a two-page report. Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.)

Each table cell will automatically enlarge as you type!

CFO-RC FILE X:

RESULTS:Species:(Common Name): **Red-necked Grebe** (Scientific Name) ***Podiceps grisegena***Date(s) of occurrence: **December 15, 2001**Number of birds seen: **One** Sex: **Unknown** Plumage: **Juvenile**Exact Location: **Pueblo Reservoir**County: **Pueblo** Nearest town: **Pueblo** Elevation: **Roughly 4700 msl**Length of observation: **Roughly 5 minutes** Time(s) of observation: **Approximately 10 AM MST**Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: **Doug Faulkner, Mark Janos**Other Observers who independently saw the bird(s): **Brandon Percival**Light Conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s); position: **Adequate. There was considerable heat shimmer but with a scope, all key identification points were observed. The bird was to the southwest of myself with the sun to the east/southeast.**Optical equipment used: **20 x 60 Leica Televid Spotting Scope**Distance from bird(s) (estimated unless otherwise noted): **Quite far. Perhaps 300 yards.**Was bird(s) photographed? **Yes. The bird was video'd and stills were taken from that video.** If so, have you submitted photos? **Yes, three very poor quality digital stills.**Who took the photographs? **Myself**Describe the general and specific habitat in which the bird(s) occurred: **Open water reservoir.**Describe the bird's behavior (flying, feeding, habits, behaviors used in identifying the Species or in supporting the identification): **Swimming and preening with Western Grebes.**

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):

Doug Faulkner and I were counting waterbirds on Pueblo Reservoir for the Pueblo Reservoir Christmas Bird Count. We had been informed of a Red-necked Grebe that had been observed on the lake in previous days and this staked-out bird was on our agenda to see that day. As we were scoping, Mark Janos arrived and spotted the Red-necked Grebe swimming with a group of loafing Western Grebes on the eastern portion of the lake.

The subject bird was a large grebe (though noticeably smaller and chunkier than nearby Western Grebes) with a relatively long, straight bill, triangular head, thick-neck, and a somewhat humped-back. The bill appeared to be straw colored. The large, triangular head was similar in shape to that of other Podiceps grebes, except that the rear head profile was relatively vertical, creating the appearance of the highest point of the head on the rear crown, unlike that of Horned or Eared Grebes, in which the highest head profile typically lies more anterior. The color of the head was a dark brown throughout the upper head with the cheeks, auriculars, upper side-neck, and throat being whitish. The rear neck was also dark brownish-gray and subtly blended into a lighter brownish-gray side neck, and body. The flanks were a dark gray.





Describe bird's call or song: **None heard**

Discuss similar species and how you eliminated them: **The smaller size and more upright posture eliminated all loons. Members of the larger Aechmophorus genus were eliminated easily by the larger size, black-and-white patterning, and snake-like neck posture (unlike the straight-necked appearance of Red-necked) of that group. Smaller grebes, namely Horned and Eared, were also easily eliminated by size, shape, and plumage characteristics.**

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? **Considerable. I have observed thousands of others on the Great Lakes and the East Coast as well as birds in Texas, Alaska, and Manitoba. I have also observed a few other Red-necked Grebes in Colorado.**

List books, guides, recordings or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation): **None**

This report is from notes made during or after observation or later from memory

Date of written report: **March 13, 2002**

Reporting observer: **Larry Semo**

Signature:

Reporting Observer's Address: **9054 Dover Street**

City: **Westminster**

State: **Colorado**

Zip: **80021**

**Send report to:
Colorado Birds Record Committee
c/o Tony Leukering**