

Species: RED-NECKED GREBE

Podiceps grisegena

(Vernacular Name)

(Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): September 2, 1974

Time Bird Seen: 10:00 AM to 10:30 AM MDT

Locality: San Luis Lakes

Nearest Town: Mosca (about 8 miles east)

County: Alamosa

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

Optical Equipment: 10x50 Binoculars

If photographed, type of equipment used: _____

Light Conditions: Partly cloudy, sun shining, minimal wind

Distance from bird (how measured): Estimated 30-150 yards

Number of Birds Seen: 1 Sex: Unknown Plumage: Winter

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor: The bird was observed swimming and diving regularly.

Describe in great detail the bird's size, overall shape, plumage and color-pattern. Include details on shape of bill, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to the marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance in field guide descriptions is not enough. Describe what you actually saw in the field:

While scanning the Lake I noted several grebes swimming and diving. One appeared to be quite large and had a long neck but didn't look like a Western Grebe. It had a chunky body and head with a long neck. As it swam nearer, less than a hundred feet I was able to note that it had a yellowish bill. The crown was a dark grayish with the face, ^{lighter grayish} chin whitish. There was a definite crescent shape of white going up toward the top of the head almost appearing like an ear. The neck was grayish but not as dark as the crown. The upper portion of the body was a darker grayish than the neck but not as dark as the crown. The lower part of the body was grayish but lighter than the upper body similar to the coloring of the neck. There appeared to be a whitish wash like a patch on the ^{dark throat} part of the ~~head~~ wing. Appeared to have little if any tail. It seemed to have a dingy, washed out appearance.

Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc: Silent

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird: A fresh water reservoir in the San Luis Valley.

How were similarly appearing species eliminated? Large size , chunky appearance, dull yellowish bill eliminated Eared and horned Grebes. Heavier neck and bill, not as large and did not have slim arching neck of the Western Grebe. Duller and dingier in coloration. Common Loon does not have white wing patch.

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species: Am very familiar with Western, Eared, Horned Grebes having observed them in lakes and reservoirs in the Denver Area for the past 10 years. Have observed several Common Loons in winter plumage at Sloan's Lake, East Lake, as well as in Summer Plumage on Isle Royale National Park. Have observed one Red-necked Grebe at the Bitter Lakes National Wildlife Refuge near Roswell, New Mexico in late April in 1968.

Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation? Birds of North America and A field Guide to Western Birds were consulted after making field notes when I returned to my vehicle and corroborated my initial identification.

This report was written from notes made during x after observation; from memory

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