

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD ☐UNUSUAL RECORD ☒

rec'd 11-12-97 ✓

accepted 6-1

Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species: Red-necked Grebe | Podiceps grisegena
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date(s): 27 November and 28 November 1996Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: undetermined Plumage: adult winterLocality: Warren Lake Elevation: ~5000 ftNearest town: Fort Collins County: LarimerTime(s) observed: 1530 - 1630 on 11/27 and 1100 - 1115 on 11/28Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): in total about 1 hr

Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

I immediately went home on 11/27 and called Bill & Paula Lisowsky whom came and saw the bird that afternoon both independently and with me. on 11/28 I observed the bird with David Leatherman

Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

Joe Mammeser Bill & Paula Lisowsky David Leatherman
work phone #223-2187 2919 Silverplume Dr (970)416-0193
Fort Collins, CO 80525 Phone (970)225-6827

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):

Light was good on 11/27 - not too strong as it was late in the day and I was watching the bird on the east side of the lake and the sun was low in the west. On 11/28 the sun was higher in the sky but not brightOptical equipment used (e.g. power, types): Bushnell 15-45x Scope and Minolta 10x50 bin.Distance, and how measured: estimated distance at 200 yards at closest pointIf photographed, type of equipment and film: N/AWho else photographed the bird? N/A

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):

The bird spent most of its time just sitting on the water. I only saw it dive a few times over both days and it didn't wander much. It generally stayed in the deep water behind the dam.

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

I immediately knew the bird was either a loon or grebe when I passed over it with my scope. It was with an assortment of waterfowl including bufflehead, common goldeneye, hooded and common mergansers, lesser scaup and ring-necked ducks. This bird was definitely different. Because of its generally drab coloration and longer, thinner neck I concluded it was a winter plumaged grebe or loon. Because the bird wasn't very "husky" in appearance I thought it was most likely a pacific or possibly a red-throated loon. When I say, "husky" I mean that it wasn't

Description (continued):

thick-necked and thick-billed as a common or yellow-billed loon. When I took a second look at the bird I realized I had erroneously assumed that it was a loon. The bird was smaller than a loon and had a thinner neck and bill. It generally looked like a small version of a western-type grebe. It was dark above and lighter on the flanks, side, and throat. The upper parts were brownish-grey and the underparts were dirty white. The bird had a whitish chinstrap extending from the throat to the rear of the head. The bill was yellowish with a darker tip and culmen. The eye appeared dark. ~~The head was flat~~ crown was flat.

Later I looked through Lisowsky's Quetzal spotting scope and was able to detect a hint of red wash remaining on the throat.

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration): N/A

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:

A small reservoir in the Fort Collins city limits, surrounded by Suburbia. There is a wooded portion on the northeast corner. The substrate appears to be sand. It is a good diving duck and grebe lake.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

I concluded the bird was not a western or Clark's grebe because it was not large enough and the underparts were not clean white like Clark's and westerns show. The dark back wasn't as dark as in Clark's or westerns and the line of demarcation between the dark upper parts and light underparts wasn't sharp as it is on the neck of westerns and Clark's. The bird was larger than either a horned or eared grebe. The large yellowish bill eliminates both Horned and eared grebe. The "chinstrap" mark also eliminates horned grebe. Bill characters eliminate all loons.

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

I have observed three other red-necked grebes in Colorado and many more off the California coast. I have seen countless western and Clark's grebes in Colorado and elsewhere. I have seen all the loons that ~~regularly~~ occur in North America (except Arctic) in both Colorado and California.

List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

a) at time of observation: NONE

b) after observation: National Geographic Guide and Seabirds: An Identification Guide by Peter Harrison

This report was written from reports made during _____, after observation _____ from memory ☒
Date and time report was written: 1 October 1997 - 9 pm

Reporting observer: David C. Ely Signature: David C. Ely

Address: 213 Annabel Lane

All reports will be maintained permanently at the address below:

Return to:

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