

## ***Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form***

CFO-RC FILE X: **2002-118**

RESULTS: \_\_\_\_\_

**Species (please include common and scientific name):** Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*)

**Date(s) of Observation:** 12/28.

**Number of birds seen:** 1      **Sex:** U      **Plumage:** basic

**Exact location:** Highline Lake, Mesa County

**Length of observation:** 1.5 Hours      **Time(s) of observation:** 9:30–11:00 a.m.

**Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you:** Amy Levad, Dave Wright

**Other observers who independently saw the bird(s):** Dave Wright found the bird on the afternoon of the previous day. He was present when we arrived.

**Light Conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s); position):** Variable—from very good with light high and 45 degrees behind to mediocre with light 45 degrees from line of sight.

**Optical equipment used:** 8 X 42 Binoculars, 15 –60 X spotting scope.

**Distance from bird(s) (estimated unless otherwise noted):** 100-300 meters

**Was bird(s) photographed?** yes      **Have you submitted photos?** Yes

**Who took the photographs?** Dave Wright

**Describe the general and specific habitat in which the bird(s) occurred:** Open water in 175 acre lake.

**Describe the bird's behavior (flying, feeding, habits, behaviors used in identifying the species or in supporting the identification):** Continually diving throughout the observation period, spending more time under water than on the surface.

**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):**

Medium size grebe, only slightly smaller than Mallards that were present.

Dark grayish body. Whitish breast, fore-neck, and cheek. Black cap on flattish head that peaked at the rear. Stout, sharply pointed, yellowish bill, about 3/4 the length of the head.



**Describe birds call or song:** No vocalizations during observation period.

**Discuss similar species and how you eliminated them:** Western/Clark's Grebes: Bird smaller. Bill stouter at the base. Cheek, fore-neck and breast dingy white rather than clean white. Neck shorter and stouter. Horned Grebe: Larger size. Bill much larger and stouter.

**What is your prior experience with this and similar-appearing species?** I have seen this species in this plumage once before in Mesa County and perhaps half-dozen times at other sites. I have seen thousands of Western and Clark's Grebes and perhaps a few dozen Horned Grebes in basic plumage.

**List books, guides, recordings or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation):** Sibley's & National Geographic after the observation.

**Date of written report:** 12/28.

**Reporting observers:** Dave Wright, Palisade, CO 81526; Rich Levad, 564 B Villa Street, Grand Junction, CO 81504