

D. Heathcote
400 Frederick St.
Hanover Pa 17331

009-01-1981

Bill
DISCUSS W/ME

10 May 1989

Dave,

Your recent note surprised me that you remembered my Eared Grebe sightings back in 1981 in York Co. I guess birders really do live by their memories. I'm not sure that this new observation of Eared Grebe increases the validity of my record or not. None the less, I will be glad to review my record of 1981.

On 28 March I observed a tightly grouped flock of four Eared Grebes on Lake Marburg. The birds were near shore and closely observed for ten minutes. Two of the grebes were in full breeding plumage and the other two were winter plumage, starting spring molt. The two birds in alternate plumage were very dark overall. Head, neck and upperparts black. Sides rusty except of a small area of white near the water line. Head showed golden tufts from the eye extending well back and below the eye. Bill thin and pointed. The other two birds were basically in winter plumage except for the golden tufts on the side of the head and the blackish of the neck. The observation ended when the birds swam out into the middle of the lake and no longer afforded much of a study.

The second sighting was on 4 April from a point further east on Lake Marburg. This sighting was of a group of five birds. The flock (probably the same flock with a new arrival) included two birds in alternate plumage, two in changing plumage and one in basic plumage. The bird in basic plumage showed the typical dark cap without the sharp demarcation as in Horned Grebe. The black of the cap came down well below the eye and gave the impression of a dark headed bird with two whitish patches around the eye. This observation was also about ten minutes in length.

When I saw these birds in 1981, I had only been living in the area for two spring migrations. I was still learning the distribution of the local migrants. What has surprised me most, has been that these sightings have not been repeated. I search carefully for Eared Grebe during migration periods and have not seen any others since the 1981 birds.

Other Eared Grebes reported to Am. Birds on the east coast during the spring of 1981 were as follows:
2 at Baltimore 4-15 April
5 at Bartow Fl 24 April to 23 May
Others were reported at Lake Shenandoah Va. and Presque Isle Pa.

Dave

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # / of /

Species: Eared Grebe

Date of Sighting: 3/28/81, 4/4/81

Observer(s): Dan Heathcote

Date of Submission: 1989 York

Submitted by: Dan Heathcote

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V		
					A	B	C
E. Kwater				X			
B. Haas			X				
F. Haas							X
R. Leberman						X	
G. McWilliams				X			
S. Santner			X				
P. Schwalbe			X				
TOTALS			3	2		1	1
DECISION					_____		

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

B. Haas

Date: 12-26-89