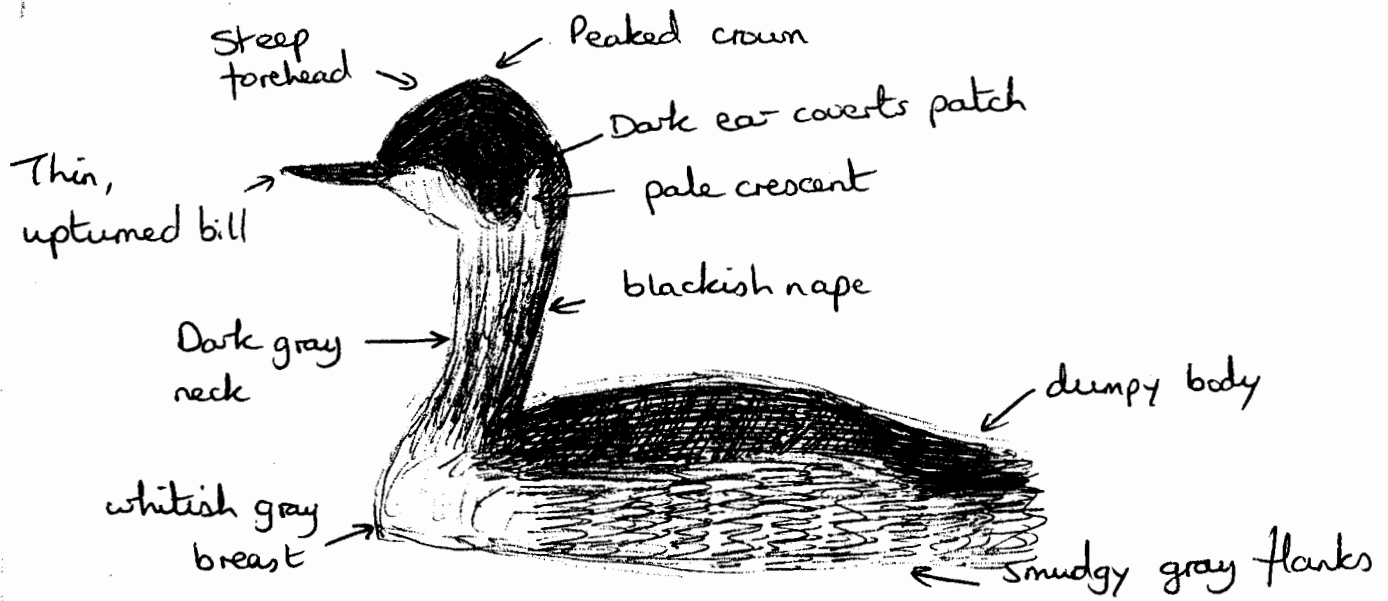


009-02-1991

EARED GREBES IN ERIE COUNTY, PA. Ed Kwater

On Saturday November 9<sup>th</sup> 1991 I was watching a ♂ Eurasian Wigeon on Long Pond, Presque Isle State Park in Erie County when Jerry McWilliams arrived and informed me that he had just found an Eared Grebe, Podiceps nigricollis in Misery Bay. DeWare Hoffman, Mike Fialkovich & Joyce Hoffmann were also with us at the time. We all drove to ~~Long Pond~~ Misery Bay and soon found the bird, feeding actively within 25 yards of the shore. Jerry then located a 2nd Eared Grebe about 150 yards out in Misery Bay. Later that same afternoon I found a 3rd Eared Grebe in Presque Isle Bay between beach 1 parking lot and Sommerheim Drive, again about 150 yards from shore. DeWare Hoffman, Mike Fialkovich and Joyce Hoffmann also saw the third bird. The three birds were observed for a total of approximately 45 minutes and ~~was~~ their identification was based on the following characters:

Small grebes, about the same size as the accompanying Horned Grebes <sup>(P. auritus)</sup> (of which there were about 150 in the bay that day), but different in shape. The head appeared slightly smaller & the neck thinner than on a Horned Grebe. The forehead was much steeper than on a Horned Grebe & the head peaked on the crown giving a very distinctive angular shape. Immediately before diving the crown feathers were somewhat flattened giving the head a less angular profile. The bill was noticeably thinner & slighter than on a Horned Grebe. The upper mandible was straight & the lower mandible ~~was~~ angled upwards at the gonys, giving the bill a slightly uptilted ~~effect~~ appearance. The plumage was darker overall than on a Horned Grebe. The upperparts were blackish-gray with the head almost totally dark. The blackish cap extended down as a large dark gray smudge on to the ear coverts which were ~~is~~ separated from the nape by a dirty whitish gray crescent. The chin & throat were a similar color but



the neck was a darker gray. The breast was a dirty whitish gray, the flanks were darker smudgy gray. The mantle was a dark blackish gray. The shape was dumper than a Horned Grebe and less streamlined at the rear, more reminiscent of the Pied-billed Grebe, Podilymbus podiceps which were also in the general vicinity. The iris was red although this was only seen in the closest bird. The birds were observed through x10 binocular and x25 spotting scope and were compared at length to the nearby Horned & Pied-billed Grebes.

I have extensive previous experience of Eared Grebes including 50-60 birds in Europe, several more in PA and amongst others, six-figure concentrations on Mono Lake CA.

The weather during the observations was as follows:- good light but overcast conditions with a 5mph N.E. wind. Conditions on Presque Isle Bay were calm.

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Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: **Eared Grebe**

Date of Sighting: **9 November 1991 to 9 November 1991**

Observer(s): **Ed Kwater**

Date of Submission: **1992 Erie**

Submitted by: **Ed Kwater**

| Member        | Class I | Class II | Class III | Class IV | Class V |   |   |
|---------------|---------|----------|-----------|----------|---------|---|---|
|               |         |          |           |          | A       | B | C |
| E. Kwater     | X       |          |           |          |         |   |   |
| B. Haas       | X       |          |           |          |         |   |   |
| F. Haas       | X       |          |           |          |         |   |   |
| R. Ickes      | X       |          |           |          |         |   |   |
| G. McWilliams | X       |          |           |          |         |   |   |
| S. Santner    | X       |          |           |          |         |   |   |
| J. Skinner    | X       |          |           |          |         |   |   |
| TOTALS        | 7       |          |           |          |         |   |   |
| DECISION      | X       |          |           |          |         |   |   |

Comments:

Signature (Secretary): *B. M. Haas*

Date: *2-27-93*