





EARED GREBE
(Podiceps nigricollis)

009-01-1992

At approximately 10:00 AM on Oct. 18, 1992 Walter Shaffer called my attention to 2 grebes off Gull Point on Presque Isle State Park. They were sitting on the water several hundred yards out from shore. When I focused my scope on the birds at about 35 power, I could easily identify the bird to my left as a Horned Grebe (*P. auritus*) in basic plumage and the bird to my right as an Eared Grebe in basic plumage. Having the 2 species together clearly showed the differences. Compared with the Horned Grebe, the Eared Grebe had a rounder shorter head and a distinctive point at the center of the crown. The Horned Grebe's crown was flat. The back of the Horned Grebe's head protruded making the length of the head look longer than the length of the Eared Grebes head. The neck of the Eared Grebe was entirely gray, fairly long, and narrow in contrast with the Horned Grebe's shorter and thicker neck, which was white on the front. The Horned Grebe had an all-white cheek; the Eared Grebe's was dusky and showed a pale vertical patch behind the ear. The thinner bill of the Eared Grebe was apparent, but the shape could not be discerned at that distance.

After I studied them for approx. 5 minutes, a tug boat pushing a barge loaded with rocks for the breakwaters frightened the birds and they flew off in a westerly direction.

I am very familiar with Eared Grebes in this plumage. I have seen and documented with photos, at least a dozen birds in the last 12 years.

Gerald M. McWilliams



Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: **Eared Grebe**

Date of Sighting: **18 October 1992 to 6 November 1992**

Observer(s): **Jerry McWilliams, Walter Shaffer**

Date of Submission: **1992 *Fr*e**

Submitted by: **Jerry McWilliams**

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	6		1				
DECISION	X						

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

Date:

7/2/93