

009-03-1996

**EARED GREBE**

*Podiceps nigricollis*

DATE: 26 March 1996  
LOCATION John Heinz NWR at Tinicum, Philadelphia County PA  
TIME 1030 - 1100  
WEATHER Mostly cloudy. Temp. 40. Winds NW 10-15 mph.  
OPTICS 7x42 binoculars and 20-60x scope.

On the above date I observed an Eared Grebe at Tinicum NWR. The bird was in the company of a Greater Scaup and a Ruddy Duck in the main impoundment approx. 200yds away. The bird was in a resting position for the time I observed it except for about 2 minutes when it became alert and active and did some wing stretching. This bird had been tentatively identified on 23 March and actively searched for on the 24 March without success. It was rediscovered about two hours prior to the time I saw it.

**Description:**

**Size and Appearance:** Medium sized grebe with a dark back and dusky-white chest, belly and flanks.

**Head and neck:** The head was a dusky-brown and the cheeks were dark. The chin was white with the white extending up to behind the eye. The rest of the neck was dark-brown. The head had a sharp angle downward at the forehead with a peak to the crown. The bill appeared dark and thin. From the distance I was I couldn't discern an upturned effect to the bill.

This sighting was made under overcast conditions and the lighting was not optimal. I took several distant photographs that showed very little in the way of detail, but were able to show what I think is the distinctive head shape of an Eared Grebe

**Separation from Horned Grebe:** The overall appearance of the head showing a steep angled forehead and crown is different from that of a Horned Grebe which has a flat crown and a round appearance. The cheeks of this bird were dark as compared to the white cheeks of a Horned Grebe. The neck of this bird was also entirely dark as compared to the mostly grayish-white neck of the Horned.

**Experience with this species:** I have seen many basic plumaged Eared Grebes in AZ, CA and TX and have seen basic plumaged Eareds in NJ and PA. I have seen probably hundreds of basic Horned Grebes throughout the east.

Nick Pulcinella  
201 Elm Ave.  
Swarthmore, PA 19081

cc: Files  
PORC - with photos  
PA Birds Phl Co. - with photos  
AFN - Dave Cutler

Rare Bird Report

009-03-1996

Eared Grebe in Phila County

Date: March 26, 1996

Location: John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge

I received a report of a possible Eared Grebe from Scott Edwards who was leading a bird walk at the John Heinz NWR and discovered a grebe that he thought was odd looking and said he thought was an Eared Grebe. His description sounded to me like a good sighting. When I visited the refuge the next day the bird couldn't be relocated by anyone. I tried again on my lunch break the next day and I met Mike Logan who had the bird in his scope. The bird was associating with a male Greater Scaup.

The grebe had its head tucked most of the time that we watched it, however, when it occasionally lifted its head I could see the field marks of a basic plumage Eared Grebe. The head had a dark crown with a white throat. The white extended in a curved fashion up behind the ear coverts. The bill was approximately the same size as a Horned Grebe's, but the lower mandible was slightly upturned from the middle of the bill to the tip. The front of the neck was uniformly gray from the just below the throat down to the breast, not whitish as in the Horned Grebe. The upperbody was a uniform dark gray and the underparts were white with a little gray speckling in the flanks.

It is my belief that this bird was a basic plumaged Eared Grebe.

Al Guarente  
421 S Old Middletown Rd  
Media, Pa 19063

Nick Pulcinella already has a  
couple of this.

**Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee**

**Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of**

Species: **Eared Grebe (Podiceps nigricollis)**

Date of Sighting: **23 March 1996 to 26 March 1996**

Location: **JOHN HEINZ NWR AT TINICUM**

County: **PHILADELPHIA**

Observer(s): **Al Guarente**

**Nick Pulcinella**

Date of Submission: **1996**

Submitted by: **Al Guarente**

Written Description: **YES** Photo: **YES** Specimen: **NO**

Recording: **NONE**

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V			Abstain
					A	B	C	
F. Haas	X							
N. Pulcinella	X							
E. Kwater						X		
R. Ickes			X					
G. McWilliams	X							
P. Schwalbe	X							
S. Feldstein			X					
TOTALS	4		2			1		
DECISION	X							

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

*F. Haas*

Date:

*2/22/97*