

24 April, 1999

Michael Leahy
P. O. Box 15
Knox, PA 16232

Dear Michael,

Thank you for submitting documentation on the Eared Grebe you saw at Kahle Lake on 27 March, 1997. After careful review we regret that we are unable to accept this record. The committee felt that the description was too brief in detail and did not rule out the possibility of Horned Grebe. This does not mean of course that the bird was not an Eared Grebe, merely that the details did not allow for a definite determination.

We hope that this does not discourage you from submitting documentation on any rare birds you find in the future. Please be encouraged to send as much detail as possible when submitting a report.

Sincerely,

For the Committee,
Roy A. Ickes, Chairperson

Record # 009-01-1997

009-01-1997

Michael R. Leahy

Documentation of Sighting

Date of Report
4/2/97

PO. Box 15
Knox, Pa. 16232
814-797-2287

Sighting Date: 3/27/97
Species: Eared Grebe
Scientific Name: Podiceps nigricollis
Number Seen: 1
Place: Kahle Lake
City: Knox
County: Clarion
State: PA
Nation: usa
Habitat: Lake
Record Number: 308

Observed this bird for aprox. 20 min. on south side launch area. Bird was very close to shore (30 to 50 ft.). Appeared to be somewhat darker in color than the Horned Grebes with a more rounded back. Seemed to ride higher in the water with rump further out of the water.

SENECA ROCKS AUDUBON SOCIETY BIRD SIGHTING DOCUMENTATION GUIDE

This form is intended as a convenience in reporting observations of rare or unusual birds. It may be used flexibly and need not be used at all except as a guide. Attach additional sheets as necessary. PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE. The following checklist can be used to remind yourself of items that you want to include in this report. Not all of these points will be seen, nor are they all necessary to correctly identify a species, but not including something you saw lessens the value of your documentation. PLEASE REPORT WHAT WAS SEEN, NOT WHAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN SEEN.

SIZE, SHAPE, AND PLUMAGE DESCRIPTION:

- Give size compared to a common bird
- Shape (warbler, thrush, hawk, etc.)
- Head: colors and pattern
- Eye: color, ring, stripe, lore, brow
- Bill: length, color
- Legs: color, length, toes (number, type)
- Upperparts: nape (neck), back, rump
- Tail: colors, shape, pattern, length
- Underparts: throat, breast, belly, flanks, vent
- Wings: colors, wingbars, length, wing linings, shape
- Parts of bird that couldn't be seen

BEHAVIOR:

- Posture
- Feeding method
- Flight pattern
- Vocalization
- Preening or sleeping
- Other species present
- Interactions with other birds
- Nesting (building, brooding, etc.)

NUMBER ,SEX, AGE:

- Number of birds
- Sex by plumage or behavior
- Age by plumage or behavior

LOCATION:

- Place name (town, park, SGL, etc.)
- County and State
- Habitat (field, woods, water, plants, etc.)

CONDITIONS:

- Time of day
- Temperature
- Sky/cloud cover
- Precipitation/snow cover
- Water (depth, waves, % ice)
- Wind (speed, direction)
- Moon phase
- Sun (location in relation to you and bird)
- Length of sighting
- Distance to bird
- Optics (binos, scope, power of each)
- Experience with this species, years birding
- How were similar species eliminated?
- Field guide used (during and after sighting)
- Was description written from notes made during observation, notes made after observation, or memory? Was field guide used prior to writing field notes?
- Other observers (are they reporting?)
- Sketch or photograph (sketches, no matter how basic, are extremely useful)

SPECIES EARED Grebe DATE SIGHTED 3/28/97

SIZE, SHAPE, AND PLUMAGE DESCRIPTION:

Plumage was breeding (mostly) Tail was whitish.
 The head was very dark, ear tufts did not extend above forehead. Bill was thin neck was dark down to water line, rump was light and held up in the air.
 The bird could easily be distinguished from the hooded grebes it was swimming with.

BEHAVIOR: swimming + diving with 3 horned grebes

NUMBER, SEX, AND AGE: 1 in breeding plumage

LOCATION: Kahle Lake near Clarion Co boat ramp,
but bird moved into Venango Co toward boat ramp
here

CONDITIONS, TIME, WEATHER, OPTICS, EXPERIENCE:

There was a slight wind, the sky was pt. cloudy and
light was good. I saw the bird at approximately 6:00 pm
with my Kowa TSN-2 and Leica 8x42. I have been
getting more experience with these birds lately.

NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, DATE OF WRITE-UP: 3-28-97

John Ferak
220 Washington St (214) 275 4086
New Bethlehem Pa 16242

MAIL COMPLETED REPORT TO: MARGARET BUCKWALTER, RD# 2, SHIPPENVILLE, PA 16254
(814-782-3925)

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: Eared Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*)

Date of Sighting: 27 March 1997 to 27 March 1997

Location: KAHLE LAKE

County: CLARION

Observer(s): Michael Leahy

Date of Submission: 1997

Submitted by: Michael Leahy

Written Description: YES

Photo: NO

Specimen: NO

Recording: NONE

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V			Abstain
					A	B	C	
F. Haas						X		
P. Schwalbe			X					
K. Parkes		X						
R. Ickes						X		
P. Hess						X		
J. McWilliams				X				
T. Floyd			X					
TOTALS		1	2	1		3		
DECISION		1	2	1		(3)		

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

F C Haas

Date:

4-18-99