

Submission Date	2012-12-17 20:48:41
Observer's Name	Matthew Sabatine
E-mail	mattsab12@yahoo.com
Observer's Address	Street Address: 115 B Fox Gap Ave. City: Bangor State / Province: PA Postal / Zip Code: 18013 Country: United States
Species (Common Name)	Eared Grebe
Species (Scientific Name)	Podiceps nigricollis
Number of individuals	2
Have you submitted this to eBird?	Yes
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	presumably adults, both in basic plumage
Observation Date and Time	12-16-2012 10:33 AM
County	Northampton
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Nazereth borough
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Nazareth Quarry
GPS coordinates of sighting	40° 44' 6.05", -75° 18' 9.64
Habitat	large, deep man-made quarry from nearby industrial sites
Distance to bird	long distance; perhaps 100 yards or more
Viewing conditions	overcast, but calm with little to no wind
Optical equipment used	Nikon Prostaff Spotting Scope
Description	two individuals, first found by Billy Weber on Friday, Dec. 14. I observed them, as others did 12/14 and 12/15, swimming near the left shore of the quarry, perhaps half the distance to the farthest end of the quarry. They remained extremely close to one another and did not associate with the geese or ducks in the vicinity. They dove very frequently, either feeding or attempting to find food. Their triangular head shape was evident, but at that distance could possibly be a subjective field mark

while trying to discern from Horned. The cheeks were conspicuously dark, however, with one individuals' cheeks slightly darker than the other, perhaps either from plumage/molt or age. Both birds appeared to be adults in basic plumage. Small grebes, dark brown on the back, with color fading to paler brown on the flanks, but the darker color extending up the neck almost to the cheeks, where it contrasted with white briefly before leading to the dark coloration in the upper cheeks. As noted, one individual seemed to have slightly darker cheeks than the other, but both exhibited dark coloration in the cheeks uncharacteristic of the clean white appearance of Horned Grebes.

Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)

as noted, they dove frequently, and when not diving, swam in the same general vicinity of the left shore of the quarry. They did not associate with the other birds present.

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

the dark cheeks were evident, as was the more rounded head shape, with the peak appearing exactly above or almost exactly above the eye, eliminating Horned Grebe.

Discussion – anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:

the birds were seen and documented by several other observers.

Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)

yes. I have seen many thousand of each Eared and Horned Grebes.

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