

<b>Submission Date</b>	2013-04-23 12:11:24
<b>Observer's Name</b>	August Mirabella
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<b>Phone</b>	267-218-1997
<b>Observer's Address</b>	Street Address: 1443 Wheaton Lane City: North Wales State / Province: PA Postal / Zip Code: 19454 Country: United States
<b>Names of additional observers</b>	Found by me. I called D. Farbotnik to confirm it, which he did.
<b>Species (Common Name)</b>	Eared Grebe
<b>Species (Scientific Name)</b>	Podiceps nigricollis
<b>Number of individuals</b>	1
<b>Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)</b>	Transition plumage
<b>Observation Date and Time</b>	04-17-2013 4:00 PM
<b>Did you submit this sighting to eBird?</b>	Yes
<b>Link to eBird checklist</b>	<a href="http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S13783596">http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S13783596</a>
<b>County</b>	Bucks
<b>Location (City, Borough, Township)</b>	New Britain Twp.
<b>Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)</b>	Peace Valley Park
<b>GPS coordinates of sighting</b>	40.3261424,-75.1893997
<b>Habitat</b>	Lake
<b>Distance to bird</b>	200 ft at closest I'm guessing. First picked out at over 1000 ft.
<b>Viewing conditions</b>	Sun at right back
<b>Optical equipment used</b>	Zeiss 7 x 42, Leica Scope
<b>Description</b>	It was with 31 Horned Grebes, a Pied-billed Grebe and lots of ducks near the dam. Plumage wise, it doesn't look like anything you are likely to see in a field guide due to being in transition from basic to alternate plumage. None of the golden facial feathers were really visible yet, I think. Even any field guide attempts to show this plumage are probably

inadequate to ID this particular bird. To add to the difficulty, it was sleeping almost all the time. I picked it out due to its overall darker color and obvious smaller size compared to the Horned Grebes. Per Sibley, its body weight is 3/4 that of Horned Grebe. It's measurements are shorter as well. When it gave brief views of its bill, the bill was slimmer and appeared upturned a bit compared to the Horned Grebes. The bill was dark to the tip compared to the Horned Grebes that have a pale tip. Since it was at rest most of the time, the peak of the head, either front like Eared or rear like Horned, was not really obvious. However, when it became fully alert with neck stretched, the Eared Grebe's more slender neck and smaller head were seen. At least once the slightly peaked at top front of head was seen but still not as obvious as the basic plumage birds I have seen. There was some residual white showing through the mostly dark feathers on either side of the rear of the head where the basic plumage is white. The throat close to the bill was still very white, but the neck and breast were fairly dark fading toward the water line. The belly was white when it raised out of the water and the white wing patches were seen when it flapped. The flanks at the water line were pretty dark but not solid black. Two photos provided were taken by me and show size and bill. Another photo(still from video)attached taken by Farbotnik also shows the bill and overall shape of the bird. The light color on the front of the bird in his photo should be ignored as a result of sun glare I believe. I have more photos and Devich has video if more is needed.

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

Head tucked in most of the time but paddling along and spinning in the pack of many grebes and ducks. Preened a little but rarely had its head up for more than just a few seconds.

**Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)**

See above. None of the Horned Grebes present in the multiple stages of transition resembled this bird. The bird could always be picked out by the combo of size and darkness.

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

This is a first county record. Devich Farbotnik was very careful before committing to the identification due to the reasons I gave above for my own observation.

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

Yes. Small size, dark overall color, upturned bill and dark color to tip of bill, head & neck shape convinced me. and neck shape with head peak in front

**During**

Sibley Guide

**After**

Sibley Guide

**Supporting evidence (check all that apply)**

Photograph

**Upload images, audio, video or drawings**

[Eared Grebe -Bill shape with upturn Peace Valley Park 4-17-13.jpg](#)  
[Eared Grebe -Size comparison- Peace Valley Park 4-17-13.jpg](#)  
[Eared Grebe Peace Valley 4-17-13 D. Farbotnik.PNG](#)





