

Submission Date	2015-05-05 00:24:44
Observer's Name	Ian Gardner
E-mail	gardnie07@gmail.com
Observer's Address	Street Address: 8670 Presidents Drive City: Hummelstown State / Province: PA Postal / Zip Code: 17036 Country: United States
Names of additional observers	Ed Bernot
Species (Common Name)	Eared Grebe
Species (Scientific Name)	Podiceps nigricollis
Number of individuals	1
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	Adult, molting into alternate plumage
Observation Date and Time	04-21-2015 1:00 PM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S22984396
County	Dauphin
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Susquehanna River, Harrisburg
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Viewed from West Fairview Boat Launch in Cumberland County
GPS coordinates of sighting	40.2720977,-76.9132984
Habitat	Shallow western shoreline of the Susquehanna River.
Distance to bird	20 feet
Viewing conditions	Clear day, light wind, no difficulty viewing bird
Optical equipment used	Vortex Razor Angled 20-60x85 scope, Leupold Wind River 10x50 binoculars
Description	Black underside except for a portion of white on the breast, black back, dark chestnut colored sides, black neck and head, yellow flared auricular patch, noticeable peak to head located just behind the red eye, and a thin all-black bill. Was seen resting and alert. Slightly smaller and noticeably darker than adjacent Horned Grebes.
Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)	Bird was seen resting with head tucked into neck with the bill facing forward. The red eye was still visible and it was actively kicking its webbed feet to move and remain with a flock of Horned Grebes. Seen within 10 feet of shore and easily identified by naked eye, but optics were used to see detail and record video for documentation. It was alert with its head up only a few times. With the head up, I could see the peaked head which was flared when

the grebe was disturbed by Canada Geese on shore.

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

The only similar species is the Horned Grebe. It was easily eliminated because it was within a flock of Horned Grebes and the differing characteristics were obvious. This bird had an all-black bill, while HOGs have a white tip to their bill. The yellow feathers of the auricular patch were thin and flared out from the eye, not thick and swept back. The peak of the head was in the middle of the head or above the eye depending on the alert posture of the bird. Horned Grebes always have a peak located toward the back of the head. Also noticeable was the extensive black coloring to the back, wings, and neck. Horned Grebes have rufous/red necks and sides with a dark gray back. This grebe was also slightly smaller than the adjacent Horned Grebes.

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

Yes, I have seen this bird in basic plumage in Pennsylvania before and in alternate plumage many times in Nevada, South and North Dakota, Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho. It was also extremely close to me, and I had to move my scope back in order to see the whole bird.

During

Sibley Guide to Birds (mobile app)

After

none

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

Video

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

[EAGR.MOV](#)
[EAGR2.MOV](#)

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