

## PA Rare Bird Report

<b>Submission Date</b>	2016-09-10 23:39:28
<b>Observer's Name</b>	Evan Houston
<b>E-mail</b>	evanhouston@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	206-327-5352
<b>Observer's Address</b>	Street Address: 136 Ridgeview City: Danville State / Province: PA Postal / Zip Code: 17821 Country: United States
<b>Species (Common Name)</b>	Eared Grebe
<b>Species (Scientific Name)</b>	Podiceps nigricollis
<b>Number of individuals</b>	1
<b>Observation Date and Time</b>	09-10-2016 11:30 AM
<b>Did you submit this sighting to eBird?</b>	Yes
<b>Link to eBird checklist</b>	<a href="http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/email?subID=S31511822">http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/email?subID=S31511822</a>
<b>County</b>	Montour
<b>Location (City, Borough, Township)</b>	Danville
<b>Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)</b>	Montour Preserve
<b>GPS coordinates of sighting</b>	N 41.103843, W 76.654936
<b>Habitat</b>	Mostly in shallow water on Lake Chillisquaque.
<b>Distance to bird</b>	As close as ~30 feet, when I was standing in the boat launch parking lot and it was next to the shoreline, and extending up to ~1/4 mile.
<b>Viewing conditions</b>	Partly cloudy, with sun behind me, so good lighting.
<b>Optical equipment used</b>	Kowa TSN 883 20-60x spotting scope, and Nikon Monarch 8x42 binoculars.
<b>Description</b>	From initial viewing, it was clear the bird was either a Horned (HOGGR) or an Eared Grebe (EAGR) in non-breeding plumage (or a juvenile?), both species I have experience with from my time birding in WA state. The field marks fit EAGR over HOGGR, including: "peaky" head shape with peak of head often over the eye (the bird varied its head shape - when it was in a more alert state it showed a "peak-ier" head, though it also showed a flatter head profile at times), "dirty" cheeks, relatively skinny and dark-ish neck, and lack of white tip to bill. The white flanks seemed within range for EAGR, though did not ride up as high as in some birds I've seen.
<b>Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)</b>	I first saw it out in the middle of Heron Cove, mostly resting but occasionally diving for food, and it then drifted towards the boat launch area where it dove, gleaned from the surface of the water, rested, and even briefly rested on the beach.

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

Please see Description above. I considered HOGGR for a long time as this was not the most straightforward EAGR I've seen, but after long study I was satisfied that the suite of field marks fit EAGR.

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

I will attach photos below, and here is the link for a short video:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QgtRtcfAEco>

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

Yes (see discussion above)

**During**

Sibley app, and eBird - range map and recent photos

**After**

same as During, and also studied my photos more carefully on my computer

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

Photograph



[IMG\\_2775.jpg](#)



[IMG\\_2777.jpg](#)



[IMG\\_2781.jpg](#)



[IMG\\_2902.jpg](#)