

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2018-10-31 19:42:13
Observer's Name	BRUCE A CARL
E-mail	carls94@ptd.net
Phone	7173684824
Observer's Address	628 FULTON ST AKRON PA 17501 United States
Names of additional observers	None. Others arrived later in the morning and afternoon with no success in relocating the bird
Species (Common Name)	EARED GREBE
Species (Scientific Name)	podiceps nigricollis
Number of individuals	1
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	winter/basic plumage/non breeding
Observation Date and Time	03-30-2018 7:30 AM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	View this checklist online at https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S44084152
County	Lancaster
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Near Kleinfeltersville
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Middle Creek WMA / from boat launch parking area
Habitat	shallow lake habitat
Distance to bird	+/- 150-200 yards
Viewing conditions	cloudy morning with off and on showers. light ne breeze to start changing to wnw during the sighting
Optical equipment used	Nikon Monarch 8x42 binocular / Nightforce (meopta) TS-82™ HI-DEF SPOTTING SCOPE 20-70 power

Description	<p>A single winter non breeding plumaged bird first seen with small group of horned grebes of about 6-8 birds while viewing through a scope at a power of between 30-50 at about an estimate of plus/minus 150 – 200 yards. Had a view of the bird for around 20 minutes before leaving for work. I first noted this bird's slightly smaller size in comparison to the surrounding horned grebes it was associating with which got me intrigued about what this bird might be. The bird was seen from the side, head on and from behind during my observation. As this group was swimming around the bird on occasion would swim behind another horned grebe and was temporarily not visible because of it being smaller than the horned grebes. While swimming with the group facing away I noticed the shorter/thinner neck, small head and somewhat smaller body size compared to the surrounding horned grebes on either side along with the dark hind neck with a white area on either side where ear/cheek would be located. The side views showed that the dark bill was noticeably smaller/thinner and had a slightly upturned look compared to the horned grebes heavier straighter bill. Again the shorter/thinner neck was noticed along with a definitive smaller more rounded looking head compared to the more blockish shaped appearance of the horned grebes head. Another noticeable mark was the darker gray cheek patch (auriculars) with a small whiter area behind the cheek near the ear but before the dark hind neck compared to the larger extremely white cheek/ear patch area on the horned grebes in similar plumage. The views from the front again showed the shorter/thinner neck and smaller rounded shaped head. Overall colors consisted of a darker gray back with lighter gray sides and neck area, whitish area on chin. Was fortunate to have this bird in close proximity to horned grebes which made this identification a little easier to work with than if it was alone. Bird did not fly or dive while viewing it. It just would swim around with this group which was located east of the main island on the lake. They swam a short distance towards the east and then back to the west again closer to the island during my observation.</p>
Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)	see above
Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)	see above
Discussion – anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:	see above
Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)	<p>Yes, based on my description, seen with large numbers of horned grebes (up to about 60 estimated). also based on my many years of seeing all different plumages of horned grebes at various locations around the mid-atlantic region from fall - spring and actually seeing at Middle Creek WMA on 4-14-15 an adult breeding plumaged eared grebe at this same location. the rather close proximity of the sighting and the length of sighting to compare with surrounding horned grebes made this id a more real possibility.</p>
During	android phone apps sibley guide, merlin, audubon
After	sibley birds 2nd edition, national geographic 7th edition, crossley id guide, peterson eastern birds, seabirds id guide (peter harrison)

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