

PENNSYLVANIA RARE BIRD REPORT FORM

This form is presented as a convenience and guide. It can be used if desired, but is not necessary for submitting a report. Species requiring documentation are those on the Review List or not on the Official List of Birds of Pennsylvania. Send documentation to:

Nick Pulcinella, Secretary  
Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee  
613 Howard Ave.  
West Chester, PA 19380  
nickpulcinella@verizon.net

SPECIES (common and scientific name) Western Grebe - Aechmophorus  
Subspecies (if known) occidentalis

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS 1 SEX(ES) ?

AGE(S) AND PLUMAGE(S) (e.g. immature; adult in breeding plumage; year for gulls; basic or alternate if you prefer those terms; state of molt if applicable): adult in breeding plumage.

DATE OF OBSERVATION April 13, 2011 TIME 4:40 PM

LOCATION (city, borough, township) Lake Ontelaunee - Maidencreek Township  
near Reading, PA

EXACT SITE (e.g. name of park, lake, road) Lake Ontelaunee, West Shore Drive

OBSERVER REPORTING:

Name Suzanne Dillman  
Address 251 Mt. View Rd.  
City Reading State PA ZIP 19607  
e-mail (optional) \_\_\_\_\_ phone (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER OBSERVERS (only those who saw and identified the bird with you): None

HABITAT (e.g. mowed field, woodland edge, any other details) Lake - in middle of lake by  
a woodland edge.

DISTANCE TO BIRD approx ~~2~~ 1 city block

VIEWING CONDITIONS (sky, weather, position of sun relative to you) Cloudy, Drizzly day - damp + cool

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED Binoculars, Telescope - Kowa.

DESCRIPTION (Include as much detail as you observed - size relative to other species present; "jizz" = e.g. posture, body shape, and proportions; colors and patterns of plumage; bill, eye, and leg characteristics; other features relevant to this individual):

Fairly large, - larger than loons that were present - larger than  
Slender, Long neck, long yellow bill. - (red-br. merganser present)  
Black on top of head with dark grey back  
White neck with black on back

Posture - sitting tall in water - could not see eye color or feet.  
in water

(Please use an additional page if necessary.)

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

Sitting in water -  
not moving much - not fishing - just sitting quiet.

VOCALIZATIONS

N/A

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE IF ANY:

Photograph \_\_\_\_\_ Video recording \_\_\_\_\_ Audio recording \_\_\_\_\_ Drawing \_\_\_\_\_

Photographer/recorder/illustrator:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail (optional) \_\_\_\_\_ phone (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Please include a copy of the photograph or recording with your report, and accompany it with a complete written documentation if the identification is obvious to you. If you made a drawing, please include it.

IF THIS IS A DEAD BIRD:

General condition \_\_\_\_\_

If collected (by permit), location and number of specimen if known \_\_\_\_\_

SEPARATION FROM SIMILAR SPECIES (how you eliminated others)

Neck was much longer + slender than a Winter Horned Grebe  
Body + neck was more slender than winter common loon or  
longer red-throated loon.

DISCUSSION - Anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it

The Reading-Bucks County Area has had much heavy rain +  
stormy weather much of month of April - birds come down to  
rest during storms

(Please use an additional page if necessary)

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND/OR SIMILAR SPECIES

~~N/A~~ - There have been reports of Western Grebes  
in this area before.

ARE YOU POSITIVE OF YOUR IDENTIFICATION? (why or why not)

90% Positive - The only other  
species it could have been was a Clarks Grebe - which looks similar -  
however - the bill was more yellow - not orange/yellow as in Clarks.

REFERENCES CONSULTED:

During observation

After observation

Peterson Field Guide to North American Birds  
RauFman Focus Guides - Birds of North America

DATE OF THIS REPORT: 4-24-11

SIGNATURE OF OBSERVER

Angela J. Dillman

# Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

## Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Western Grebe *Aechmophorus occidentalis*

Date of Sighting: 13 April 2011 to 13 April 2011

County : BERKS

Location : LAKE ONTELAUNEE

Observer(s): Suzanne Dillman

Date of Submission: 2011

Submitted by: Suzanne Dillman

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
D. DeReamus				X				
A. Guarente				X				
T. Johnson				X				
B. Coulter					X			
R. Koury					X			
D. Weber					X			
G. Malosh					X			
TOTALS				3	4			
DECISION					X			

Comments:

IV-B 0/7

Signature (Secretary) Nick Pulcinella

Date:

10/7/11