

Submission Date	2012-12-11 11:31:29
Observer's Name	David McNaughton
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Phone	717-861-8408
Observer's Address	Street Address: Fort Indiantown Gap Street Address Line 2: Bldg. 11-19 Utility Rd. City: Annville State / Province: PA Postal / Zip Code: 17003 Country: United States
Names of additional observers	Jarrod Derr, Randy Miller, Chris Bortz, Chuck Chalfant, Joan Renninger, Rosemary Spreha, Richard and Pat Williams, Tim Becker (and many more over the coming weeks)
Species (Common Name)	Western Grebe
Species (Scientific Name)	Aechmophorus occidentalis
Number of individuals	1
Have you submitted this to eBird?	Yes
Observation Date and Time	11-4-2012 3:55 PM
County	Lebanon
Location (City, Borough, Township)	East Hanover Twp.
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Memorial Lake State Park
GPS coordinates of sighting	40.4190669,-76.5964973
Habitat	Lake

Distance to bird

200m

Viewing conditions

Clear viewing towards dusk, overcast skies

Optical equipment used

Nikon Fieldscope 80

Description

Very large Grebe with black dorsum and white neck towering over other 4 Grebe species present. Holding head high with red iris. Large yellow bill and dark mask descending over eye.

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

Bird was constantly swimming and diving closer to south shore than the other Grebes present with the exception of side-by-side visits from the Red-necked Grebe. Seemed to prefer the presence of larger waterfowl but stood out prominently from them, often at the front of their flocks. Usually swimming with head held high and neck straight rather than low and appressed to body.

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

Other 4 species of PA-occurring Grebes present and all much smaller. Long, thin white neck distinguishable as well, and black mask over eye eliminated Clark's. Not quite big enough or long enough to be a Red-throated Loon. Long billed.

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

Bird observed heavily by most of the state birders. This should not be your only report. Photographs taken by Jarrod Derr and published on his Flickr site,
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/60992758@N05/8155442331/in/photostream>
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/60992758@N05/8155473398/in/photostream>

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

Yes, the bird was so obviously different from all the other 4 species of Grebes present and large enough to see all the characters prominently. Bird observed and reevaluated by scores of in and out-of-state birders of all experience levels.

During

Sibley's Eastern Guide, other birders

After

Same

Supporting evidence (check all that apply)

Photograph

Click to edit

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