

Rare Bird Report**Submission Date** 2014-04-07 14:50:50**Observer's Name** Paul Cooper**E-mail** pcooper@princetonhydro.com **Phone** 6108123597**Observer's Address** Street Address: 17 Rock Ridge Road City: Upper Black Eddy State / Province: PA
Postal / Zip Code: 18972 Country: United States**Names of additional observers** Devitch Farbotnik**Species (Common Name)** Eared Grebe **Species (Scientific Name)** *Podiceps nigricollis***Number of individuals** 1**Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)** Adult non-breeding**Observation Date and Time** 04-06-2014 7:50 AM**Did you submit this sighting to eBird?** Yes**Link to eBird checklist** <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S17767599>**County** Bucks**Location (City, Borough, Township)** Haycock Township**Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)** Lake Nockamixon Fishing Pier**GPS coordinates of sighting** N 40.4562, W 75.2355**Habitat** Cove of a large impoundment**Distance to bird** As close as 5 yds, up to 300 yds**Viewing conditions** Clear, good**Optical equipment used** Alpen 20-60x80 scope, Nikon Monarch 7 10x42, and Panasonic Lumix FZ 40

Description The most obvious feature of the bird is the peak of the head located over the eye. No matter in what posture, level of alertness, or behavior the forward peak maintained the same conformation. The cap and auriculars are quite dark and a single narrow stripe ran down the back of the head to the top of the neck. The lower cheeks and the back of the head are white/light gray. The neck is dark gray as are the wings. The flanks are a mottled gray. The bill is slightly upturned. The eye is bright red. This grebe seemed to float high in the water and the back was quite domed.

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

This bird was associating with four Horned Grebes in various stages of transitional plumage. Throughout the duration of the sighting, nearly two hours and still present when I departed, the birds were swimming around and actively foraging with frequent diving. It also engaged in a limited amount of preening. For a period of about two or three minutes the bird and at least one of the Horned Grebes appeared to start settling into a sleeping posture. Several times pedestrians, anglers, and boaters caused the birds some alarm and they responded by swimming and some short flights.

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

As mentioned above, this bird was mixed in with Horned Grebes. Compared to the Horned Grebes, this bird was smaller, exhibited a taller, domed profile of the body, had the head peak above the eye rather than the rear of head, had different plumage details, and lacked the white bill tip.

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

Yes. While the field marks stand on their own, the contrast provided by the Horned Grebes leaves no doubt.

During Sibley Birds**Supporting evidence (check all that apply)** multiple Photographs