

<b>Submission Date</b>	2015-05-05 00:24:44
<b>Observer's Name</b>	Ian Gardner
<b>E-mail</b>	gardnie07@gmail.com
<b>Observer's Address</b>	Street Address: 8670 Presidents Drive City: Hummelstown State / Province: PA Postal / Zip Code: 17036 Country: United States
<b>Names of additional observers</b>	Ed Bernot
<b>Species (Common Name)</b>	Eared Grebe
<b>Species (Scientific Name)</b>	Podiceps nigricollis
<b>Number of individuals</b>	1
<b>Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)</b>	Adult, molting into alternate plumage
<b>Observation Date and Time</b>	04-21-2015 1:00 PM
<b>Did you submit this sighting to eBird?</b>	Yes
<b>Link to eBird checklist</b>	<a href="http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S22984396">http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S22984396</a>
<b>County</b>	Dauphin
<b>Location (City, Borough, Township)</b>	Susquehanna River, Harrisburg
<b>Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)</b>	Viewed from West Fairview Boat Launch in Cumberland County
<b>GPS coordinates of sighting</b>	40.2720977,-76.9132984
<b>Habitat</b>	Shallow western shoreline of the Susquehanna River.
<b>Distance to bird</b>	20 feet
<b>Viewing conditions</b>	Clear day, light wind, no difficulty viewing bird
<b>Optical equipment used</b>	Vortex Razor Angled 20-60x85 scope, Leupold Wind River 10x50 binoculars
<b>Description</b>	Black underside except for a portion of white on the breast, black back, dark chestnut colored sides, black neck and head, yellow flared auricular patch, noticeable peak to head located just behind the red eye, and a thin all-black bill. Was seen resting and alert. Slightly smaller and noticeably darker than adjacent Horned Grebes.
<b>Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)</b>	Bird was seen resting with head tucked into neck with the bill facing forward. The red eye was still visible and it was actively kicking its webbed feet to move and remain with a flock of Horned Grebes. Seen within 10 feet of shore and easily identified by naked eye, but optics were used to see detail and record video for documentation. It was alert with its head up only a few times. With the head up, I could see the peaked head which was flared when

the grebe was disturbed by Canada Geese on shore.

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

The only similar species is the Horned Grebe. It was easily eliminated because it was within a flock of Horned Grebes and the differing characteristics were obvious. This bird had an all-black bill, while HOGs have a white tip to their bill. The yellow feathers of the auricular patch were thin and flared out from the eye, not thick and swept back. The peak of the head was in the middle of the head or above the eye depending on the alert posture of the bird. Horned Grebes always have a peak located toward the back of the head. Also noticeable was the extensive black coloring to the back, wings, and neck. Horned Grebes have rufous/red necks and sides with a dark gray back. This grebe was also slightly smaller than the adjacent Horned Grebes.

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

Yes, I have seen this bird in basic plumage in Pennsylvania before and in alternate plumage many times in Nevada, South and North Dakota, Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho. It was also extremely close to me, and I had to move my scope back in order to see the whole bird.

**During**

Sibley Guide to Birds (mobile app)

**After**

none

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

Video

**Upload images, audio, video or  
drawings**

[EAGR.MOV](#)  
[EAGR2.MOV](#)

**Click to edit**

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