

12-1988 (b)

Common Name: Red-necked Grebe

Scientific Name: Podiceps grisegena

Date: 05-07-88

Time: 08:30 a.m.

Length of time observed: 10 minutes

Number: one (1)

Age: Adult

Sex: unknown

Location:

Bear River oxbows at Benson, Utah (Cache County)

Latilong 3

Elevation (if known): Approx. 4400 ft

Distance to bird: 150 m

Light conditions: Good; mostly sunny

Optical equipment:

20 x 50 Bushnell spotting scope mounted on a tripod

Weather: Clear and mostly sunny with temperatures in the high 40's, low 50's

Description: (Write a detailed description of the bird's appearance, including size, shape, plumage pattern, color, and any unique features.)

The grebe we observed was large and long-necked. Its general body coloration was as follows: black-grey on the backside of the head, neck, and body, light brown on the sides of the body (near the water surface), and a grayish brown on the underside of the neck. Several Western Grebes were on the river at the time of our sighting; the color contrast between the backside and underside of this bird's body was not as sharp as that seen in the Western Grebes, which are black above and white below in all plumages. The bird in question also had a shorter neck and appeared smaller than these Western Grebes.

voice or call notes and method of delivery:

None

Behavior:

The bird was diving near the middle of the river.

Habitat:

An oxbow in the Bear River.

What similar species might it have been and how were these eliminated:

- 1) Western Grebe - see "Description" section
- 2) CLARK'S Grebe - very similar to Western Grebe

What experience have you had with this and similar species:

I had not previously seen either a CLARK'S OR Red-necked Grebe, but have seen Western Grebes many times in Cache County, Utah.

Books, illustrations, and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:

- 1) Field Guide to the Western Birds
- 2) Field Guide to Birds of North America
- 3) Water Birds of California. ~~These~~ These books served to clarify field marks of the Red-necked and Western Grebes.

Significance of record in this area or the state:

There have been two unverified sightings in the state to date (Behle et al. 1985).

Additional material: (attach drawing, photograph, tape recording if available)

None

Description from notes taken at time of sighting ___ notes made later ___ from memory

Observer:

John Mull

Signature:

John F. Mull

Address:

942 Canyon Rd., #2
Logan, Utah 84321-4321

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

Ivan Palmblad, Providence, Utah

Date prepared:

22 Aug 1988

Turn this form to:

Ella Sorensen
3868 Marsha Drive
West Valley City, Utah 84120

VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

Common Name: Red-necked Grebe

Scientific Name: Podiceps grisegena

Date: 05-07-88

Time: 08:30 a.m.

Length of time observed: 10 minutes

Number: one (1)

Age: Adult

Sex: unknown

Location:

Bear River oxbows at Benson, Utah (Cache County)

Latilong: 41° 45' N, 112° W (LATILONG 3)

Elevation (if known): approx 4300 ft

Distance to bird:

150 m

Light conditions:

Good; mostly sunny

Optical equipment:

20 x 50 Bushnell spotting scope mounted on a tripod

Weather: Clear and mostly sunny with temperatures in the high 40's, low 50's

Description: (Write a detailed description of the bird's appearance, including size, shape, plumage pattern, color, and any unique features.)

The bird was approximately the size of large duck and had a thin build and relatively long neck. Body color was grey to black-grey with more white towards the water surface. The underside of the neck was a greyish-brown to brown color. The bill was long, sturdy, mostly yellow and tapered near the end. I did not note any unique characteristics other than those described above.

Voice or call notes and method of delivery:

None

Behavior:

The bird was diving near the middle of the river.

Habitat:

An oxbow in the Bear River.

What similar species might it have been and how were these eliminated:

This could have been either a Western or Clark's Grebe. These two species were eliminated on the basis of the sighted bird's relatively shorter neck, which lacked the contrasting black and white coloration of the Western and Clark's.

What experience have you had with this and similar species:

I have not previously seen either the Red-necked or Clark's Grebe, but have seen the Western Grebe often in Cache County.

Books, illustrations, and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:
Field Guide to the Western Birds and Field Guide to Birds of North America.

Both books served to clarify field marks of the Red-necked Grebe.

Significance of record in this area or the state:

There have been two unverified sightings in the state to date (Behle et al. 1985).

Additional material: (attach drawing, photograph, tape recording if available)

None

Description from notes taken at time of sighting _____ notes made later _____ from memory

Observer:

John Mull

Signature:



Address:

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Logan, Utah 84321-4321

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06-08-88

Return this form to:

Ella Sorensen
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West Valley City, Utah 84120