

ACCEPTED 7-0

CFO-ORC-FILE# 1998-4

V rec'd 12/98

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS SIGHT RECORD FORM

Results: 14<sup>th</sup>

Species:

Red-necked Grebe

Podiceps grisegena

Dates: 10/31/98

Number of birds seen: one

Sex: ?

Plumage: alternate

Locality: Cherry Creek Rsvr.

Elevation: about 5260 feet

Nearest town: Greenwood Village

County: ~~Bear~~ Arapaho

Time observed: 09:13 am to 09:18 am

Duration of observation: 5 minutes

Other observers with you: none

Other observers who saw the bird independently JB Hayes

Light conditions: overcast

Optical equipment: Swarovski ST80 scope zoomed to about 60 power

Distance from bird: pretty far. As I watched it slowly drifted out far enough where I could no longer see it well

Describe the bird's behavior: it was floating in the water preening

Describe the bird (what you actually saw):

It was right next to a Western Grebe, which I will refer to as WEGR below.

Size: It appeared to be just a little smaller than the WEGR.

Upper parts: The back and wings were pretty much uniformly dark gray with perhaps some white patches on upper rump.

head: It had a thicker, slightly shorter neck than the WEGR. The bill was also thicker than WEGR and about the same length. The bill was dark. The throat was whitish but not as white as WEGR. The entire back of the neck was dark gray and faded to whitish on the throat and chin. There was no distinct contrasting line as on WEGR. The whitish from the chin leaked up slightly behind the ear. The cheeks were not as dark as the back of the neck.

legs: It raised a leg once and it was dark gray.

After it drifted out of sight I consulted National Geographic's Birds of North America and determined that this bird was a first winter bird because the white behind the ear was not as distinct or large as a winter adult. Also the top of the head was more smoothly rounded without the peak in back of the winter adult.

Describe the bird's song and call if heard: not heard

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird: fairly large reservoir

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species:

Western/Clark's Grebe : eliminated by thicker neck and bill, slight white behind ear, less contrast from throat to back of neck.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species: Many, many Western and Clark's Grebes. Only a couple of previous Red-necked Grebes, both winter adults.

List books if they helped in your identification: National Geographic's Birds of North America

This report was written from notes taken during x, or after observation  
\_\_\_ or from memory\_\_\_.

Reporting observer:

David W. Quesenberry

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