

VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

Common Name: *Horned Grebe* Scientific Name: *Podiceps auritus*

Date: 1 March 1985 Time: ~ 1330 Length of time observed: 10-15 min.

Number: 1 winter Age: unknown Sex: unknown
plumage

Location: Irvin Reservoir, Washington Co.

Latilong: 19 Elevation (if known): 3000 ft.

Distance to bird: about 200 m. Light conditions: good, sun to our back.

Optical equipment: 20 X scope

Weather: Clear, no wind, 65°

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

Subject bird was about same size as an Eared Grebe (9 inches) and similar in shape, but differed in the following: the neck was shorter & thicker; the bill was slightly thicker, straight & pointed; and the head was slightly larger.

The plumage was white on the breast, foreneck, side of neck, throat, chin, auriculars, & most of nape. The crown, forehead, a narrow strip through the ~~neck~~ nape, hind neck, back, wings, & tail were gray-brown. The sides & flanks above the water line were grayish white.

Bill & eye were dark.

Voice or call notes and method of delivery: not heard

Behavior: was swimming along far edge of reservoir.
would occasionally dive.

Habitat: open reservoir

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

Eared Grebe - has much less white on head & neck;
has a thinner, slightly upturned bill at tip;
has a smaller head; & a longer, more slender
neck.

What experience have you had with this and similar species:

very familiar with both species in all plumages.

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

none

Significance of record in this area or the state:

2nd latilong record.

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

photos taken.

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

Observer: Steven Hedges

Signature: *Steven Hedges*

Address: 889 S. Cedar Knolls W.
Cedar City, UT 84720

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

Don Holke

Bob Douglas

Date prepared: 8 March 1985

Return this form to: Ella Sorensen
3868 Marsha Drive
West Valley City, Utah 84120