

## VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

Common Name: RED-NECKED GREBE Scientific Name: PODICEPS GRISEGENA  
 Date: NOV. 4, 1990 Time: 4:00AM Length of time observed:  $\frac{1}{2}$  HOUR; ALSO  
 Number: ONE Age: JUVENILE Sex: UNKNOWN OBSERVED NOV. 5, NOV. 6, NOV. 7,  
 NOV. 10, NOV. 18 FOR SHORT PERIODS  
 Location: CUTLER RESERVOIR NEAR BENSON MARINA, CACHE VALLEY  
 Latilong: 3 Elevation (if known):  
 Distance to bird: VARIOUS, CLOSEST ABOUT 40 YARDS, MOSTLY  
 MUCH FARTHER Light conditions: GOOD  
 Optical equipment: ZEISS 10X40 BINOCULARS, BAUSCH & LOMB BALSCOPE ZOOM 60;  
 QUESTAR 40 POWER. PHOTOGRAPHS SIGMA 600mm MIRROR LENS  
 ON CANON T70 CAMERA  
 Weather: PARTLY CLOUDY TO CLEAR DEPENDING ON THE DAY  
 Description: (Write a detailed description of the bird's appearance, including size, shape, plumage pattern, color, and any unique features.)

THE HEAD WAS NEAR-WHITE WITH DARK STRIPES. ONE "STRIPE" WENT FROM BILL OVER THE HEAD, FORMING A CAP, THEN NARROWING AND CONTINUING DOWN THE BACK OF THE NECK. IN LINE WITH THE BILL, A SMALL SEMICIRCLE WAS REMOVED FROM EACH SIDE OF THIS STRIPE, GIVING A FLASH OF WHITE WHEN THE BIRD TURNED AWAY. A SECOND STRIPE EXTENDED THROUGH THE EYE POSTERIORLY FOLLOWING THE CONTOUR OF THE HEAD THEN CURLING ANTERIORLY TO THE NECK TO FORM THE LOWER BORDER OF THE FACE. A THIRD, SHORTER STRIPE PARALLELED THE SECOND BELOW IT. THERE WAS ALSO A VERY SHORT, STRAIGHT STRIPE EXTENDING FROM THE BILL.

THE BILL WAS SHORTER THAN THE WIDTH OF THE HEAD. IT WAS SYMMETRICAL, EACH MANDIBLE TAPERING UNIFORMLY FROM THE BASE. THE COLOR WAS ALL DEEP YELLOW.

THE FRONT OF THE NECK WAS LIGHT AT THE TOP (THRO) BUT THE REST AND THE BREAST (SIDES) WERE A PALE RUST. THE FRONT OF THE BREAST WAS VERY LIGHT, EXTENDING AND TAPERING UP THE BASE OF THE NECK TO A POINT. THE BACK AND SIDES WERE A UNIFORM LEAD COLOR. ALL PARTS SEEM TO DARKEN CONSIDERABLY WHEN SHADOWED AND IN THE PHOTOGRAPHS. SEE ALSO SIMILAR SPECIES SECTION OVER.

Voice or call notes and method of delivery: NONE

Behavior: THE BIRD ASSOCIATED WITH WESTERN AND CLARK'S GREBES FOR THE MOST PART, BUT OCCASIONALLY STAYED BY ITSELF. MOST OF THE TIME IT FED FREQUENTLY BY DIVING. WHEN RESTING, THE HEAD WAS LAID ON THE BACK.

Habitat: RESERVOIR

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

OTHER GREBES. THE RED-NECKED IS MUCH LARGER THAN EARED, HORNED OR PIED-BILLED. THE BODY IS NEARLY AS LONG AS A WESTERN OR CLARK'S, BUT HAS A LOWER, FLATTER PROFILE. THE NECK IS SHORTER AND THICKER THAN WESTERN OR CLARK'S AND THE BILL IS RELATIVELY SHORTER BUT DEEPER AT THE BASE AND SYMMETRICAL, MORE LOON-LIKE. THE STRIPED HEAD PATTERN OF THIS JUVENILE IS DISTINCTIVE.

What experience have you had with this and similar species:

OBSERVED PREVIOUSLY IN MICHIGAN AND MONTANA. FIRST RECORD IN MICHIGAN WAS IN 1951 WHEN THE SPECIES WAS CALLED HOLBOELL'S GREBE

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

FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA - LY NOST-6009 SOC.,  
SOULINGS BY ANDERSON, A MANUAL FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE BIRDS OF MINNESOTA AND NEIGHBORING STATES BY ROBERTS. THESE WERE USED TO VERIFY IDENTIFICATION, BUT NOT TO PREPARE DESCRIPTION.

Significance of record in this area or the state:

LISTED AS "UNVERIFIED" IN UTAH BIRDS, A REVISED CHECKLIST BY BEHLE, SORENSEN AND TWO RECORDS ARE GIVEN. RONALD RYEL ALSO SAW ONE APR. 13, 1988 IN CATARACT WHITE CANYON.

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

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

Observer: LAWRENCE A. RYEL

Signature: Lawrence A. Ryel

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Other observers who independently identified this bird:

ELLA SORENSEN, KEITH ARCHIBALD, RONALD RYEL, ROBERT ATWOOD, ALLEN STOKES, TERRY SADLER, CRAIG KNEEDY and MANY OTHERS

Date prepared: NOV. 19, 1990

Return this form to: Ella Sorensen  
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