

LOUISIANA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE
REPORT FORM

1. Name: Western Grebe *Aechmophorus occidentalis*
2. Number: one age and sex unknown
3. Locality: Louisiana; St. Tammany Parish; Mandeville; Sunset Point
4. Date 17 Nov. 2002
5. Time: 9:50 a.m. cst
6. Reporting observer: B. Mac. Myers III; 5660 Ada Pl.--rear apt.; New Orleans, LA; 70124
7. Accompanying observers: none
8. Independent observers: none
9. Light conditions: excellent, looking wnw, brilliant sunshine, ultra clear atmosphere
10. Optics: 10x42 Eagle-excellent; 22x60 Bushnell scope-very good
11. Distance: 125-150 yds.
12. Duration: 2-3 minutes
13. Habitat: L. Pontchartrain, a sort of cove wnw from Sunset Pt.
14. Behavior: swimming; did not see it dive
15. Description: A very large waterbird, compared to nearby Horned Grebes and Buffleheads; not nearly as large as nearby Common Loon. A "black and white" bird with a strikingly long thin neck. Initially in the extremely brilliant light I thought the yellow of the bill might be bright enough for a possible Clark's, but watching it more closely, I could see it wasn't all that bright, had a slight greenish cast, and the culmen was darker. It was blackish capped, extending to below the eye and to the bill base. A thin blackish line extended from the rear of the crown to the back. The lower face, chin, throat and sides and front of neck were white to the breast and waterline. The dorsal surface was dark to the waterline. The brilliant light tended to make it look even more contrasting, more black than dark gray. The bill was approximately the same length as the head from bill base to rear of head. It was very thin and sharply pointed.

16. Voice: not heard

17. Similar species: Clark's Grebe would have brighter yellow or yellow-orange bill, would show lighter coloration above the waterline, and might show paler above and in front of the eye. Horned Grebe much smaller (direct comparison) and has much shorter bill relative to head length.

18. Photographs: none; I went to my truck for camera but could never relocate bird. Looked for about an hour, and then returned for a little while an hour or more later.

19. Previous experience: a few in LA; many in the West. A few Clark's Grebe's in Oregon.

20. Aids: none at the time; afterwards checked the usual field guides

21. Description made from notes written in the field, attached.

22. Yes I am positive of the identification.

23. Signature: *B. Mac. Myers III*

24. Date: 4 Dec. 2002 6:45 pm cst

