

Louisiana Ornithological Society's

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

Report Form

This form is intended as a convenience in reporting observations of species on the Louisiana Bird Records Committee (LBRC) Review list. The LBRC recommends the use of this form or a similar format when submitting records for review (to assure that all pertinent information is accounted for). Attach additional pages as necessary. Please print or type. Attach Xerox of field notes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for more obscurely marked species. When completed, mail to Secretary, Louisiana Bird Records Committee, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216.

1. English and Scientific names:
Western Grebe
Aechmophorus occidentalis
2. Number of Individuals, sexes, ages, and general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
One
3. Locality: LOUISIANA:
(parish) **Caddo**
(Specific locality) **Cross Lake, near Squirrel Point**
4. Date(s) when observed:
November 11, 2001
5. Time(s) of day when observed:
4:15 p.m. until about 5:00 p.m.
6. Reporting observer and address:
Jeff Trahan
505 Americana Drive
Shreveport, LA 71105
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also Identified the bird(s):
Charlie Lyon
8. Other observers who Independently Identified the bird(s):
Mark Swan
Roger Breedlove
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light):
About one hour before dark. We observed the bird from Charlie Lyon's boat. Lighting was very good at that time. However, we had problems with the motor for about 20 minutes and could not pursue the bird immediately. When the motor was restarted, we found the bird near the middle of the lake. We followed it taking pictures (me) and video (Charlie). There was still sufficient light for both pictures and video.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition):
I had Lica 10x40 binoculars
11. Distance to bird(s):
I estimate that the closest we were to the bird was about 50 feet. Of course, it didn't remain that close.

12. Duration of observation:
About one hour, but about 20 minutes of that time, it was very far away because of the motor problems.
13. Habitat:
Cross Lake, in the City of Shreveport. Urban areas nearby. Piers and boathouses near the edge of the lake.
14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation):
Bird was observed sitting on the water and diving in search of food. It probably spent as much time underwater as on the surface. We never observed it flying.
15. Description (include only what was actually seen, not what "should" have been seen; include if possibly: total length/relative size compared to other familiar species, body bulk, shape, proportions, bill, eye, leg, and plumage characteristics. Stress features that separate it from similar species):
See enclosed photograph.
16. Voice
Did not hear it make any sound.
17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation):
Clark's Grebe. Black cap on Western Grebe extends down over the eye as you can see it did in the photograph. On Clark's Grebe, the black cap does not extend down over the eye—the eye is surrounded by white.
18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? Attached
I took the photographs. Charlie Lyon took video, but this is not included here.
19. Previous, experience with this species:
Seen several times in west Texas.
20. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification): a. at time of observation: b. after observation:
National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds
21. This description is written from:
notes made during the observation (-notes attached?);
notes made after the observation (date:);
memory and photographs
22. Are you positive of your Identification If not, explain:
Yes.
23. Signature of reporter

date) November 23, 2001
(time) 3:00 p.m.