

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, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate

One, sex, age, unknown.

3. Locality: LOUISIANA: (parish) (specific locality)

Rapides Parish, Main pool area of Cotile Lake viewed northeastward from the parking area of the boat launch for Cotile Recreation Area Park.

4. 4. Date(s) when observed:

December 18, 2019.

5. Time(s) of day when observed:

11:30 AM CST

6. Reporting observer and address:

Jay V. Huner
428 Hickory Hill Drive
Boyce, LA 71409

7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):

None.

8. Other observers who Independently identified the bird(s):

None.

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light):

Cloudy, sun at slight angle. Good light for viewing.

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition):

Vortex Razor 11-33x50 Scope

11. Distance to bird(s):

Estimated 700+ yards.

12. Duration of Observation:

5-10 seconds.

13. Habitat:

Main pool in reservoir on west side of escarpment of Red River Valley.

14. Behavior of bird/circumstances of observations (flying, feeding, resting; including and stress habits in identification: relate events surrounding observation):

I was scoping the lake checking for water birds and observed the grebe in the act of diving.

15. Description (include only what was actually seen, not what "should" have been seen: include if possible: 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 eBird description:

Bird seen briefly around 11:30 AM as it dove some distance in the lake on northwest side of the main pool of the lake in the general vicinity of a decoy set. Size somewhat smaller than nearby Double-crested Cormorant and clearly larger than scaup and Buffleheads in the vicinity. Obvious black crown, sharply pointed, long yellowish white bill, and snow-white cheek and throat. Despite close observation of the area for about 10 minutes, could not relocate the bird.

16. Voice:

Not heard.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation):

The bird was too large to be a Horned Grebe. It's bill was blade-shaped and not hooked as might be associated with an immature Double-crested Cormorant. It was white below which is not the case for an immature Double-crested Cormorant.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? Attached?):

None.

19. Previous experience with this species:

I have seen Western Grebes at Cross Lake and Kincaid Lake in Louisiana. I have seen Western Grebes in Texas and California.

20. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification):

- a. at time of observation: Kaufman's Field Guide and National Geographic Field Guide.
- b. after observation: Peterson's Field Guide and various internet images.

21. This description is written from: ___notes made during the observation (notes attached?); ___note made after the observation (date: ___12/28/19___); ___memory.

22. Are you positive of your identification? If not, explain.

Yes.

23. Signature of reporter ___Jay V. Huner___ date ___02/05/20___ time 5:05 PM