

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species Common Eider 2. Number: 2 (1 ♂, 1 ♀?)
 3. Location Little Cedar Point, Ohio
 4. Date: 11-7-80 5. Time Bird seen: 2:45 PM to (Fly-by)

6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field):

MALE LARGE duck (my 1st thought was geese) slow, low flight. PREDOMINANTLY WHITE, HEAD, NECK, CHEST, BACK, AND INNER WINGS.
 FEMALE - ASSUMED identity BECAUSE OF COMPANION.

7. Description of voice, if heard: NONE

8. Description of behavior: SLOW, HEAVY wingbeat - low flight

9. Habitat - general: OVER LAKE ERIE OFF POINT heading EAST!
 specific:

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain:
WHAT ELSE?

11. Distance (how measured)? 75-100 yds. Estimate 12. Optical equipment: BINOCS

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: EXCELLENT
studied in all PLUMAGES 1977 & 1980 ALASKA

15. Other observers: NONE

16. Did the others agree with your identification?

17. Other observers who independently identified this bird:

18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:
PETERSON, GOLDEN BOOK.

19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? 6 hours

Signature: [Handwritten Signature] Address: RD #4, Box 6 B

Date: 11-7-80 City, State: WAUSEON, OH 43567

Please see reverse side for birds that should be documented

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species Smith's Longspur 2. Number: ONE
3. Location Little Cedar Point
4. Date: Oct. 12, 1980 5. Time Bird seen: 10:30 AM to 1 minute
6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field):
 Small, sparrow-like bird, short conical bill, suggestion of light malar line and eyebrow, streaked back (black & brown - not gray) RICH, WARM BROWN OR BUFF underparts, appearing plain (no streaking) prominent white outer tail feathers. WAS WITH SMALL MIXED FLOCK including myrtle warblers, white-crowned sparrows, juncos.
7. Description of voice, if heard: NONE
8. Description of behavior: moving on rocks, small driftwood, dropping from small, mixed flock.
9. Habitat - general: LAKE SHORE, LEeward side.
 specific: ROCKY AREA, some driftwood - brush.
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain:
Pipits, white-tailed sparrows, other Longspurs.
11. Distance (how measured)? 40-50 feet (estimate) 12. Optical equipment: Binoculars
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you): EXCELLENT
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: SEEN IN BREEDING PLUMAGE ONLY (ALASKA)
15. Other observers: NONE
16. Did the others agree with your identification?
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird:
18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:
PETERSON, GOLDEN BOOK. PROCESS OF ELIMINATION WITH OTHER POSSIBLE IDENTIFICATION.
19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? 8 hours

Signature

Address: RR #4, BOX 6 B, Wausau, WI

Date: 10-12-80

City, State: WAUSAU, WI 54987

Please see reverse side for birds that should be documented

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species Kirtland's Warbler 2. Number: 1

3. Location Camp Herold 4-H Camp (4 mi. south of Waterford Ohio on Waterford Twp Pds 107, 108 and 172)

4. Date: 9-17-80 5. Time Bird seen: 8:00 am to 8:10 am

6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field):



Warbler sized bird. Back, wings, tail bluish-grey. Chin, throat, breast, belly (to legs) yellow. Sides of breast and belly (below wing) speckled with black-brown streaks. Belly from leg to under tail coverts white. White eye ring, and sides of head darker than rest of head. Dark bill and legs. No obvious wing bars or tail spots. No yellow rump. Wags tail occasionally.

7. Description of voice, if heard: not heard

8. Description of behavior: Stayed in pine trees about 6-10 feet up, on outer edge of trees, searching among needles, on ~~the~~ branches.

9. Habitat - general: Deciduous woods surrounding a 20 year old pine & spruce plantation (Norway Spruce, Red and White Pine)
specific: In Red pine tree 6-10' up on outer branches, searching among needles.

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain:

Canada warbler - no streaks on side, no white eye ring, legs not dark.

Magnolia warbler - has yellow rump, white in middle of tail feathers; ~~white wing bars~~

11. Distance (how measured)? 25-30' (estimated)

12. Optical equipment: 10 X 50 binoculars.

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you): foggy day; fog was lifting and after bird was seen, fog was clear of fog; sun was coming thru fog brightly and was behind and to right of bird and me.

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: none with this species. But I have seen Canada and Magnolia Warblers numerous times in the field and up close (banding).

15. Other observers: _____

16. Did the others agree with your identification? _____

17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: _____

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

Golden: A Guide to Field Identification of Birds of North America

19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? A picture description as above was done in field after sighting bird.

Lynn Barnhart
Signature

Address: 124 MUSKINGUM DR

Date: 12-13-80

City, State: MARIETTA OHIO 43750

A few days before this sighting a Kirtland's Warbler was also sighted in Vienna WVA (about 12 miles SE of Camp Herold in a straight line)

Species: Eared Grebe

Number: 1

Location: Dredge disposal area in Lorain harbor, Lorain, Lorain County,
Ohio

Date: 9 November 1980

Time: 1520 to 1630 EST, under continuous observation

Description:

In direct comparison, the bird was similar in size to a horned grebe. However, its shape was noticeably different. Its forehead was much more abrupt; the peak of the crown was almost directly above the eye. On the horned grebe, the forehead was more slanting with the peak well behind the eye. The head also appeared to be relatively smaller on the eared grebe. The neck appeared to be shorter and was distinctly slimmer on the eared grebe. When swimming, the posterior portion of the body appeared to ride noticeably higher on the water on the eared grebe.

There were also noticeable differences in bill size and shape between the two species. The bill of the eared grebe was much smaller and slimmer than the horned grebe. At a distance, the eared grebe hardly appeared to have a bill at all. On the eared grebe, the upper mandible was virtually straight from its base to its tip while the upper mandible of the horned grebe was noticeably curved. The lower mandible of the eared grebe was also straight except for the upturned tip while on the horned grebe, this mandible was also noticeably curved. For both species, the bill was uniformly dark.

On the eared grebe, the crown was blackish. On the side of the face, a dusky gray patch extended from the crown down below the eye with a narrow dusky line continuing behind the eye down to the neck. This vertical dusky line separated two grayish-white patches, one on the cheek immediately below the eye, the other on the back of the head and extended from the base of the neck to slightly above eye level. The nape was blackish while the throat was uniformly dusky gray. The breast and sides were a similar dusky gray. The upperparts were uniformly blackish-gray (darker than sides). The eye was red.

Voice Description: Not heard.

Behavior: During the entire time, the bird was actively feeding with a flock of horned grebes. It dove frequently and tended to stay under the water longer than the horned grebes.

Habitat: The open waters of Lake Erie along the rip-rapped edge of the dredge disposal area. The bird spent most of the time within 100 yards of shore or the disposal area.

Elimination of similar species:

Separation from the horned grebe is quite tricky. While this bird was quite dusky and its plumage was similar to eared grebes pictured in field guides, horned grebes can also be quite dusky and have similar plumages. Hence, plumage alone does not eliminate horned grebes.

Horned grebes were eliminated on the basis of shape characteristics. In particular, head shape differences, the shorter and slimmer neck, slimmer bill and differences in bill shape were used to eliminate the horned grebe. Of these, differences in bill size and shape were the determining field marks although there were distinct differences with regards to all of these characteristics.

Distance: During most of the observation, the bird was approximately 200 feet from the observer. On one occasion, the bird swam within 50 feet of the observer.

Optical Equipment: 20X telescope

Light and weather conditions:

Sunny, with sun at the observer's back. Lighting conditions were good during most of the time although the light started to fade as the sun set.

Previous Experience:

I had seen eared grebes on 12 prior occasions (including within a month in California) while I am quite familiar with the horned grebe (with roughly 200+ prior observations).

Other Observers: Don Tumblin, Bill & Nancy Klamm, John Pogacnik plus several birders from Lorain. Tom LePage and Dave Corbin saw the bird on the following day. All agreed with this identification.

Books consulted: None

This description is taken from field notes written during the observation.



Bruce Peterjohn
105-K E. Ticonderoga Dr.
Westerville, OH 43081
9 Nov. 1980