

# PODICIPEDIFORMES (Grebes)

## Grebes



# Family PODICIPEDIDAE (Grebes)

## Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*)

white face, neck, breast



Bird Viewing Preserve; NV

### Measurements:

Length: 26" Wing Span: 35"

Average Weight: 3.3 lbs

### Distinguishing Field Characteristics:

long, gray-yellow, spear-like bill; **red eye completely surrounded by black**; long, slender neck usually held high; black crown, nape through to back; white face, neck through to breast and belly; no sexual dimorphism or seasonal plumage changes

### Notes:

common; native to wetlands and inland lakes of western NA (CA to the Great Plains; Mexico to c Canada); dives mainly for fish (carp, herring, etc.), also amphibians, crustaceans, etc.; NA's largest grebe; closely resembles the less-common **Clark's Grebe**

**Mojave presence:** winter range; some year-round

long neck held high



Bird Viewing Preserve; NV

black completely covers red eyes



Bird Viewing Preserve; NV

black cap, nape, back



Bird Viewing Preserve; NV

## Clark's Grebe (*Aechmophorus clarkii*)

### Measurements:

Length: 25" Wing Span: 24"

Average Weight: 3.1 lbs

### Distinguishing Field Characteristics:

yellow-orange, spear-like bill; **red eye completely surrounded by white**; black crown, nape through to back; white face, neck through to breast and belly; little sexual dimorphism (male has slight crest near back of head) or seasonal plumage changes

### Notes:

uncommon; native to large lakes and wetlands of western NA (CA to TX; s Mexico to extreme southern Canada); dives mainly for fish, but will accept other small prey (amphibians, crustaceans, insects, etc.); very closely resembles the **Western Grebe**

**Mojave presence:** year-round

breeding



Calville Bay; Lake Mead NRA

long neck held high



Bird Viewing Preserve; NV

black cap, nape, back

black does not cover red eyes



Calville Bay; Lake Mead NRA

white face, neck, breast



Bird Viewing Preserve; NV



# Family PODICIPEDIDAE (Grebes)

## Pied-Billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*)

Measurements:

Length: 13" Wing Span: 16"

Average Weight: 1 lb

Distinguishing Field Characteristics:

stocky small size; short neck; short, chicken-like bill; brown overall with no white under wings like other grebes; almost no tail; no sexual dimorphism; **breeding**: darker head and black throat; whitish bill with vertical black band; **non-breeding**: lighter body color; some have cinnamon on throat; yellowish bill with no band

Notes:

common; native to e and s SA, isolated regions in nw SA, and most of NA outside Arctic regions; prefer still, freshwater habitats (e.g. ponds, marshes) where they dive for fish, insects, crustaceans, etc.; have lobed toes rather than webbed; rarely fly

Mojave presence: year-round resident

## Eared Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*)

Measurements:

Length: 13" Wing Span: 16"

Average Weight: 11 oz

Distinguishing Field Characteristics:

dainty size; red eyes; **breeding**: dark brown/black body; golden fan on sides of head; black bill; **non-breeding**: dark gray body with paler flanks; white patches on chin and neck; no fan; gray bill

Notes:

common; found in w NA, parts of Europe and Mediterranean coastlines, e and se Asia, southern Africa; in fall, feeds on brine shrimp, flies, otherwise crustaceans, molluscs, frogs, fish, etc.; no sexual dimorphism; flightless most of year

Mojave presence: migration; winter range



**breeding**

**black band on bill**

Lorenzi Park; LV, NV



**hanging out with a drake mallard**

Lorenzi Park; LV, NV



**non-breeding**

**no band on bill**

Lorenzi Park; LV, NV



**non-breeding**

**chicken-like bill; paler plumage**

Lorenzi Park; LV, NV



**breeding**

**dark brown body**

Echo Bay; Lake Mead NRA



**non-breeding**

**gray body**

Corn Creek; Desert NWR; NV



**golden fan**

Calville Bay; Lake Mead NRA



**red eyes**

Corn Creek; Desert NWR; NV