

General Field Notes

E. WAYNE IRVIN

WILLIAM POST

North Carolina Editor
North Carolina State Museum
P.O. Box 27647
Raleigh, N.C. 27611

South Carolina Editor
The Charleston Museum
360 Meeting Street
Charleston, S.C. 29403

Eared Grebes in Sumter County, S.C.

LEX GLOVER

P.O. Box 117

Lugoff, S.C. 29078

EVELYN DABBS

Rt. 1, Box 64

Mayesville, S.C. 29104

On 17 March 1987 at 1100 hours we saw three Eared Grebes (*Podiceps nigricollis*) on a sewage treatment plant at Campbell Soup Lagoon, 8 km south of Sumter, Sumter County, S.C. The birds were with an assortment of ducks: Ruddy (*Oxyura jamaicensis*), Canvasback (*Aythya valisineria*), Ring-necked (*Aythya collaris*), Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*), and scaup sp.

The birds, one in basic plumage and the other two in alternate plumage, were approximately 100 m away. We watch them through a 55x Celestron telescope.

The 16 ha pond had been drained for several months and had been refilled for about seven weeks. The grebes stayed closed to each other and with the raft of ducks.

We returned nine days later and found the grebes still present. The two birds in alternate plumage had begun molting into basic plumage. Also, two Horned Grebes (*Podiceps auritus*) had joined the Eared Grebes on the pond and we were able to compare the two species. By 8 April, the third bird had almost completed its molt, and the two Horned Grebes were no longer there. On 21 April, only one Eared Grebe was present and one Horned Grebe was again on the pond. On 24 April, no grebes were found.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Eared Grebes have been seen in the interior of South Carolina previously (Chat 39:90-91, 1975). This is the first documented record for Sumter County.—WP)