

FIELD NOTES

Western Grebe at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge: On May 4, 1969 I was sweeping the Main Pool at the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge with a 30X Balscope at about 7 AM Eastern Daylight time. The sun was shining brightly and was at my back so that the lighting and visibility were excellent. I spotted a large grebe which I identified as a Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*), a bird which I had previously seen in California.

The bird was much larger than any of the grebes commonly seen in this area. The neck was long and slender and held erect. The head was flattened on top with a suggestion of "ears". The overall color pattern was black and white. The top of the head was black. The black extended in a narrow band down the back of the neck to the dark gray body. The face, throat and the front and sides of the neck were white. The bright yellow bill was long and sharply pointed.

After observing the bird for a few minutes, I returned to the Refuge Headquarters where I reported the find to the Manager, Mr. Clayton Hardy, who accompanied me back on the dike and, after observing the bird, concurred with my identification of it as a Western Grebe.

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Chuck-Will's Widow at Islip, Long Island: At about 4:00 AM (EDST), May 27, 1969 my sleep was disturbed by the calling of a goatsucker outside my bedroom window. This particular call sounded unlike a Whip-poor-will's (*Caprimulgus vociferans*) so I found my portable tape recorder, stuck the microphone out the window and recorded five calls and returned to bed. Awakening the next morning, I played goatsucker calls from A *FIELD GUIDE TO BIRD SONGS* (P. Kellogg, A. Allen). Comparing these to my tape recording I decided that I had heard a Chuck-will's-widow. (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*)

I quickly spread the news via telephone and much to my relief the bird began calling that evening at 8:45 PM until midnight while Bob Budliger was present. The evening of May 29th Gilbert Raynor and Horald Wellender tape recorded its calls from 8:30 to midnight. The bird was last heard the evening of May 30th. During its stay, many birders came to hear it.

On June 6 I presented Dr. Wesley Lanyon with my tape recordings of the bird's calls. A voice spectrogram indicated that it was indeed a Chuck-will's-widow. During its stay the habitat favored by this individual was a patch of nearby oak woods with an understory of greenbrier and also bordering suburban back yards.

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[Previous state records are one collected Riverhead, L.I., May 2, 1933 (Bull, Jr. 277) and one seen and heard Braddock Bay, near Rochester June 1-July 2, 1961 by many observers. Two other records of single birds heard by single observers are very likely correct but lack corroborative evidence. Ed.]