

spans have fewer birds. A very few birds occupy the I-beam and cross-member ledges under the bridge, however, the outer east face which gets the warmth of the winter sun appears most popular.

While records of exact counts of Rock Doves at this site have not been kept, casual observation indicates that this flock continues to grow. It numbered about 1000 two years ago and about 500 three or four years ago.

Robert P. Yunick, 1527 Myron St., Schenectady, New York 12309

LETTER TO THE EDITORS

23 April 1982

To the Editors:

Charlcie Delehanty's "Photographs of New York State Rarities: 29. Western Grebe" (*Kingbird* 28: 208-209, 1978) presents my photograph of a bird present at Tupper Lake, St. Lawrence County, in the summer of 1978. Within the Western Grebe population are both dark- and light-phased individuals, and preliminary studies indicate these birds may represent two sibling species (K. Kaufman. 1979. *Continental Birdlife* 1: 85-89).

In a communication dated 12 April 1982 R. S. Heil of Peabody, Mass., commented on the appearance of my photograph of the Tupper Lake Western Grebe: "I was surprised that the bird appeared to be of the light phase. The lores are clearly white, there seems to be plenty of white feathering above the eye . . . do you recognize it as a light-phased bird?"

Examining a series of color transparencies of the grebe, I find that it is in fact a dark-phased bird. In the photograph printed in the *Kingbird*, the bird was swimming directly into early morning sunlight and the black feathering of the lores and surrounding the eyes exhibits a sunlit sheen. Reproduced in black-and-white, this tonal quality was lost, and the face appears largely white. That a light-phased Western Grebe might occur in New York State would be most surprising, for this population is found in the far west, while dark-phased birds range west to Manitoba and Minnesota.

I am indebted to Mr. Heil's inquiry, which prompted this clarification of New York's only fully documented Western Grebe.

Sincerely,
Thomas H. Davis

9446-85 Road, Woodhaven, New York 11421