

Potters Lake, Univ. Kansas, Lawrence, Douglas Co., Kansas

Dec 19, 1965

For the last 2 1/2 weeks a small grebe has been noticed, on several occasions between 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 A.M. This evening at late twilight (20 minutes before lights were too dim to distinguish the eyes of a bird at 20 feet), a pied-billed grebe left a 3'x10' patch of cattails on the west side of the lake. My first impression was a carp leaving a splash and movement of the cattails. At eight feet lakeward, the grebe surfaced and remained for 2 minutes, I, remaining absolutely still on the edge of the bank and 20 feet from the bird. For the next 3 minutes it inspected me, never closer than 8 feet from shore, nor moving beyond 4 feet from where it emerged. It defecated twice. In the next 5 minutes it submerged 5 times, gradually lowering its body in the water before quietly diving each time, surfacing not over 8 feet away, either up or down shoreline from its original position. It was evident that this grebe was interested in returning to its night resting place in the vegetation. Finally it dove and in 34 seconds surfaced lakeward some 40 feet from the rushes. It remained there for 12 seconds before diving and in 35 seconds swimming under water surfaced in the center of the 3'x10' patch of cattails where it remained motionless until I approached when it quietly left under water and resurfaced about 8 feet lakeward as was the case in the initial contact with the bird. This grebe tolerates two white domestic <sup>geese</sup> grebes, which show a curiosity for the grebe, to come within not closer than 6 inches before diving.

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A red-breasted nuthatch came to our feeding station this afternoon at 1620 Tennessee.