

Red-necked Grebe

Podiceps grisegena

The Red-necked Grebe breeds on small inland lakes in Canada and Alaska, and winters along both coasts of North America. Boldly marked, vocal, and aggressive during the breeding season, it is quiet and subtly attired in winter.

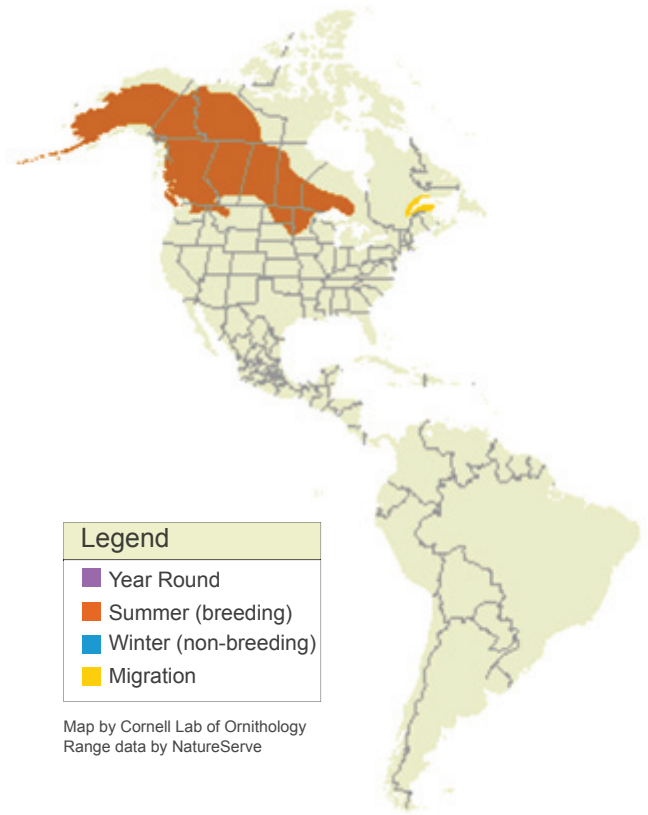
Keys to Identification

Adult Description

- Medium-sized waterbird; large grebe.
- Bill is large, straight and sharp.
- Breeding adult has a rufous neck, pale gray or white cheeks, and a black cap.
- Nonbreeding adult has gray neck and cheeks.

Immature Description

Juvenile has bold dark stripes on sides of head. Immature similar to nonbreeding adult, but even grayer; some rufous or brown tones usually show on foreneck.



Cool Facts

- Like other grebes, the Red-necked Grebe ingests large quantities of its own feathers. Feathers remain in the bird's stomach. The function of feathers in the stomach is unknown. One hypothesis suggests that the feathers help protect the lower digestive tract from bones and other hard, indigestible material.
- The Red-necked Grebe also feeds its feathers to its young.
- The Red-necked Grebe migrates over land strictly at night. It sometimes migrates over water or along coasts by day, in large flocks.

Measurements

Both Sexes

- Length - 16.9 - 22.0 inches
- Wingspan - 24.0 - 34.6 inches
- Weight - 28.2 - 56.4 ounces