

A Red-necked Grebe Census on Lake Edward
in Crow Wing County

On July 3 and 5, 1978, I conducted a waterfowl census on Lake Edward in Crow Wing County, Minnesota (Township 135 North, Ranges 27 and 28 West) This lake covers approximately 2,844 acres and has a hardstem bulrush (Scirpus acutus) edge in certain locations. The census was repeated five times by using three groups of observers on July 3 and two groups of observers on July 5.

Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) personnel used canoes to observe waterfowl the edge of the lake vegetation and the Area Wildlife Office personnel used a boat and motor. All species of waterfowl were tallied, but due to the bulrush edge it was not possible to observe any species with consistency except for the red-necked grebe (Podiceps grisegena)

The following counts were made on red-necked grebes:

Red-necked Grebes Seen on Lake Edward

<u>July 3, 1978</u>	<u>Adults</u>	<u>Young</u>	<u>Total</u>
Group A	62	26	88
Group B	61	32	93
Group C	58	38	96
<u>July 5, 1978</u>			
Group D	75	35	110
Group E	72	31	103

The highest numbers of birds counted were 75 adults and 38 young-of-the

Analysis of the sightings showed 21 grebes (10 pairs) with no young, 31 grebes (15 pairs) with young per pair, 21 grebes (10 pairs) with two per pair, and 2 grebes (1 pair) with three young. The net productivity was 1.1 young per pair.

On July 3, the lake was heavily used by fishermen and boaters, and the grebes remained in or near the bulrushes. On July 5, there was little human disturbance and the grebes ranged far out into the lake and could be seen almost anywhere.

The concentration of red-necked grebes nesting at Lake Edward appears to be the largest concentration of this species known anywhere in Minnesota.

The counts made on other species during this census were mallard (9, 2, 13, 5, 5), blue-winged teal (4, 3, 0, 0, 5), great blue heron (6, 6, 4, 10, 5), common loon (7, 5, 2, 7, 7), green heron (1, 5, 0, 2, 3), bufflehead (0,0, 0, 0, 3)

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Dennis Hanson, Area Wildlife Manager, P.O. Box 648, Brainerd, Mn. 56401