

of the six eggs the flycatchers fledged five young.—LAWRENCE H. WALKINSHAW, 1703 Wolverine-Federal Tower, Battle Creek, Michigan, and C. J. HENRY, Seney National Wildlife Refuge, Seney, Michigan.

Display of the Least Grebe.—On April 30, 1956, Marian Zimmerman and I watched two Least Grebes (*Podiceps dominicus*) indulge in what appeared to be courtship behavior on a small forest pond 55 miles southeast of Escárcega, Campeche, México. The pond occupied less than half an acre and I doubt if any other grebes were present. I believe the two birds were male and female, though I cannot be certain of this. One was slightly larger than the other.

When first seen the grebes were swimming and feeding within a few feet of each other in open, sun lit water not far from the deeply shaded edge of the pond. As we watched from a distance of 20 or 25 feet, the birds approached to within six or eight inches of one another until they were side by side and headed in the same direction. Suddenly both simultaneously rose so that their bodies were about half out of the water, and their necks extended forward and upward, their bills pointing at approximately "10 o'clock" (see Figure 1). Their head plumage, especially

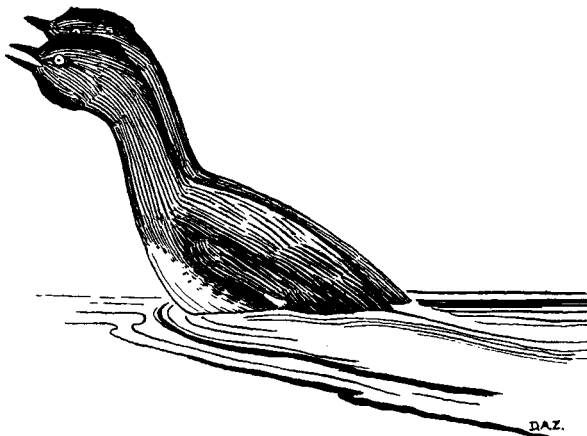


FIGURE 1. Mutual display of the Least Grebe.

that of the throat, was somewhat fluffed out. In this position they rapidly glided forward for three or four feet and quickly lowered their breasts into the water, stopping suddenly. Both birds preened, dabbed about in the water with their bills as if feeding, then without obvious preliminaries again rose and glided three or four feet. This process was repeated five times in five minutes. Each glide was terminated by a few seconds of preening and bill-dabbing. Throughout the performance one bird uttered a high-pitched, nasal *nyě-nyě-nyě-nyě* much of the time. Their black throat-patches and golden-yellow eyes were conspicuous.

The appearance of another person may have prematurely terminated the display. At any rate, they swam off through the vegetation and were lost from view. Meager though these notes are, they seem to represent the only recorded observations on the displays of this common bird.—DALE A. ZIMMERMAN, Imlay City, Michigan.