

**Great Northern Diver** *Gavia immer* Rare vagrant.

A first-winter bird was found at Caldecotte on November 16<sup>th</sup> (CD). While sometimes confiding, its lengthy dives could render it very difficult to find as it used both basins of the lake. It stayed until the end of the year and so was enjoyed by many of the county's birding fraternity.

**Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis* Fairly common resident and winter visitor.

After the recent encouraging messages of year-on-year increases, it would appear that recording of Little Grebes has taken a downturn in 2011. Breeding was reported at just thirteen sites, but overall, while the number of sites at which it was recorded at any time stayed fairly static at forty-five, peak counts at the key sites were much lower with 16 on the Jubilee River in November being the highest count. That site also recorded double figures in January, but post-breeding, as usual, produced most of the double-figure counts. 12 at Wendover Canal in June included 6 young. Foxcote, Slough Quarry and Calvert saw 10 or 11 in August with 14 at the last-named site in September. Linford held 11 in October and double figures until year's end, with a max of 14 in November. Please continue to record all sightings.

**Red-necked Grebe** *Podiceps grisegena* Scarce migrant.

An adult bird in winter plumage was seen on the evening of October 23<sup>rd</sup> on Calvert Sailing Lake (MSW), there was no sign the following morning despite searching. The eighth record this century, with Calvert the most regular site.

**Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus* Fairly common resident.

Unlike Little Grebe, there was a considerable increase in reported sites this year with thirty-six. No significant midsummer gatherings were reported.

In the winter months only two sites consistently held decent numbers, but two others did so in the first-winter period. These are tabulated below.

|                    | Jan | Feb | Mar | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Linford            | 14  | 28  | 40  | 54  | 72  | 28  |
| Marlow             | 44  | 21  | -   | 22  | 21  | 22  |
| Newport Pagnell GP | 23  | 16  | 19  | 3   | 3   | 1   |
| Willen             | 23  | 30  | 12  | -   | -   | -   |

The other sites which saw double figures, and usually only in one month, were Caldecotte,