

# Bird-watchers cheer guest arrival

**HT Correspondent**  
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HERE'S SOME good news for bird-watchers in Bengal. The red-necked grebe, spotted in Dehra Dun's Assan Barge last December, has arrived in Bengal.

"Bill Harvey and Vikram Grewal spotted the bird in Dehra Dun's Assan Barage in early December last year. The grebe is usually not seen in these parts. It has earlier been spotted in north-western India near the Indo-Pak border," said



**A red-necked grebe**  
*Resurfacing*

Sumit Sen, running the website *birdsofkolkata*.

Sen said the baikal teal too was spotted in Santragachhi. "But more than a bird being

spotted, what is more important is that it stays on for at least a month."

Joint director of the Zoological Society of India Shiv Kumar Chatterjee and member of the NGO, The Jungles, Prason Dasgupta, spotted the grebe during an intensive training-workshop on conservation of migratory birds.

The endangered bird loves to stay in lakes, marshes, seacoasts and estuaries, which explains why seven of them were found at the Kasthasthali Oxbow Lake in

Purbashtali.

A non-breeder in India, the grebe or *Todiceps Griseus* is about 45 cm in length and owes its name to the reddish brown tint on its neck. It has a yellow-based bill, a black crown with short crest and wide cheeks. The bird breeds between May and August, when the black cap on its head moves down to the eyes.

The Jungles has sent word to the BNHS, the Salim Ali Institute in Coimbatore, the Wildlife Institute of India and other enthusiasts.