

## COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD ☐UNUSUAL RECORD ☒

Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species: Neotropic Cormorant (Olivaceous) | Phalacrocorax olivaceus  
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date(s): 15 June 1978Number of birds seen: One Sex: ? Plumage: AdultLocality: Barr Lake State Park Elevation: 5200 ft.Nearest town: Brighton County: AdamsTime(s) observed: About 0730Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.) Continuously for about 2 minutes

Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

Steve Reese (head ranger at Barr Lake State Park-not a birder)

Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):  
bird sitting on exposed branch with sun shining on it from behind observerOptical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 10 X 50 binocularsDistance, and how measured: Estimated distance of about 70-80 ft.

If photographed, type of equipment and film: \_\_\_\_\_

Who else photographed the bird? \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):

Bird was sitting perched on an exposed branch of a dead cottonwood in a Double-crested Cormorant and Great Blue Heron rookery. After about two minutes, the bird flew off and disappeared behind the trees. It could not be located that day, nor any day thereafter.

Describe in detail the bird's relative size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern. Include details of bill, wing and tail shape. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions and illustrations is not enough. Describe only what you actually observed in the field:

A distinctly small cormorant in direct comparison with Double-crested Cormorants perched nearby (in same tree). Typical cormorant shape-elongated body, fairly short rounded tail, very short legs, webbed feet, moderately long head, neck, bill moderately thick, moderate to somewhat short in length, hooked. Bird was perched so that upper-parts were not visible. Head, neck and entire underparts unmarked black. Gular patch pale yellow, completely surrounded by a surprisingly wide and very distinct white band.



## Description, (continued)

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):

No calls heard

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:

Cormorant and heron rookery in cottonwoods standing in water of moderately-large irrigation reservoir on plains.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

Only similar species occurring in area is Double-crested Cormorant. That species is distinctly much larger (in direct comparison). That species has no white band (or a band of any color) around its gular patch (that mark is diagnostic of olivaceus). All adult Double-crested Cormorants observed on this day had vivid orange gular patches, in clear contrast to the pale yellow of olivaceus.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?

I have observed Double-crested Cormorant on numerous occasions. I have worked at Barr Lake State Park for four years and have had frequent contact with the birds in the rookeries there. I have observed Olivaceous Cormorant in Texas in March 1975 (on one occasion sitting in the same tree with Double-crested Cormorants).

List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

- a) at time of observation: Standard field guides (Peterson, Robbins) consulted during observation. They supported the identification.
- b) after observation: After the observation, Handbook of North American Birds by Palmer and Field Guides to the Birds of Panama by Ridgely were consulted. Also supported the identification.
- This report was written from notes made during X, after        observation; from memory       .

Date and time report was written: 20 June 1978

Reporting observer: Robert Andrews Signature: Robert Andrews

Address: 1390 So. Ivy Way, Denver, Colorado 80224

All reports will be maintained permanently at the address below.

Return to: CURATOR, DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS  
DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY,  
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