

COLORADO

RARE BIRD SIGHTING DOCUMENTATION

VERNACULAR NAME: Olivaceous Cormorant
SCIENTIFIC NAME: Phalacrocorax olivaceus

DATE(S): 6, 7 September 1985 TIME SEEN: p.m.; a.m. TO:
LOCALITY: Jumbo Reservoir, near Crook, N.E. Colorado
OPTICAL EQUIPMENT: Nikon 9 x 30 binoculars; Spacemaster 25 x scope

PHOTOGRAPHED: no

NUMBER SEEN: one SEX:
PLUMAGE: adult, non-breeding
DISTANCE: various; 200-500 yards
LIGHT CONDITIONS: bright sun on both days; orientation of sun from all different angles as we moved around the lake.

OTHER OBSERVERS: Dan Bridges on 6 September

FIELD MARKS: Bird was distinctly smaller than all other Double-crested Cormorants with which it flocked. This was true in all poses and positions and the birds moved around on the sandbar. It was half a neck shorter than all the other cormorants and the neck was slimmer and with a smaller head. In flight the bird was smaller and browner than the D.-c. Cormorants. The tail was longer than the D.-c. Cormorants' tails when seen in flight. The proportions of the bird in flight were different than the others as well with a longer tail and shorter neck giving the bird an even fore and aft look, while the D.-c. Cormorants had a more forward-projecting profile. Throat-pouch was yellow, compared to the brighter yellow-orange to orange pouch of all other cormorants present. Distance was too great to discern the shape of the pouch.

In general bird was a dark brown, evenly-colored, long-necked bird with a fairly stout bill and short legs set far back on the body.

FIELD MARKS (CONT'D):

CALLS OR SONG:

BEHAVIOR: Flocked with about 15 Double-crested Cormorants. Was seen perched on a sandbar in the center of the lake most of the time. Once flew off of sandbar across the lake staying very low. Another time was observed with the flock of other cormorants sitting on the sand beach.

HABITAT: Plains reservoir.

SIMILAR SPECIES & HOW ELIMINATED: Although I never saw this bird from very close range I eliminated Double-crested Cormorant on basis of 1) Smaller overall size, about 3/4 length and 2/3 bulk of D.c. Cormorant, 2) Slimmer neck and shorter-necked and longer-tailed profile in flight giving even fore- and aft-dimensions, and 3) Yellow rather than orange throat pouch.

PRIOR EXPERIENCE: I have seen both species of cormorants on numbers of occasions with more experience of course with Double-crested. I have seen Olivaceous Cormorant several different times in Texas.

REPORT WRITTEN FROM NOTES MADE DURING: some AFTER: OBSERVATION MEMORY: most

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SIGNATURE

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Also seen by Dan Bridges et al.