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COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD ☐UNUSUAL RECORD ☒

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

Species: Olivaceous Cormorant | Phalacrocorax olivaceus
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date: August 21, 1990Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: Unknown Plumage: ImmatureLocality: Jumbo Reservoir Elevation: 3705'Nearest town: Sedgwick (east) Cook (west) County: LoganTime observed: 8:30 AM (Logan / Sedgwick line)Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 10 minutes

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

None

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

This bird had no island to sit on, no other cormorants for companionship, and did not stay. It was not rebuffed.

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):

Good Sun shining in from east - I was southeast of the bird.Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): binoculars 8X and telescope 25XDistance, and how measured: 150 yards est.If photographed, type of equipment and film: NoWho else photographed the bird? _____

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

The cormorant was sitting on the south shore of Jumbo Reservoir next to a flock of White Pelicans. A Ring-billed Gull was feeding about 10 feet away for scale. The cormorant preened, stretched its wings, fanned its tail. Then flew out into the lake about 10 minutes later. No other cormorants were at Jumbo on this day.

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 observe in the field:

The cormorant was just a little larger than the Ring-billed Gull which was feeding 10 feet away. It had a long thin neck, a long tail and looked rather thin. The back, top of head, back of neck and tail were dark brown with a slight greenish cast. The belly, breast, and lower front of neck were medium brown which graded into light brown in the upper part of neck toward the bill.(over)

Description (continued):

The yellowish-brown throat patch was small and distinctly angular. The long, hooked bill was paler than the throat patch. The small size, for a cormorant; the small angular throat patch; the lack of white on the throat and upper breast; ~~and~~ the proportionately larger tail; and the olive-brown color convinced me that this was an Olivaceous Cormorant.

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

No sound

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

The south shore of Jumbo just north of some picnic tables is very flat, mostly sandy with a few small scattered rocks.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

An immature Double-crested Cormorant has white on the breast and throat. This bird was brown on the breast and throat. The throat patch on a Double-crested Cormorant comes straight down from the top of the head.

This bird's ~~throat~~ throat-patch was angular, jutting backward behind the bill.

Double-crested Cormorants have a relatively short tail. This bird had a long tail.

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

A Double-crested Cormorant is a larger bird and would dwarf the nearby Ring-billed Gull. This bird was not much larger in body build than the Ring-billed Gull.

I have seen 2 Olivaceous Cormorants in Colo. prior to this one and several in ^{South Texas}.

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

a) at time of observation: National Geographic Birds of North America

b) after observation:

idem

Golden Guide

Birds of N.A.

This report was written from reports made during _____, after observation _____ from memory X
Date and time report was written: 9 PM August 21, 1990

Reporting observer: Dan Bridges

Signature: T. W. Dan Bridges

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Return to:

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