

4-93-112

APPENDIX II

DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD SIGHTINGS  
FOR  
THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDS

Species: Olivaceous Cormorant ; Phalacrocorax olivaceus  
(Vernacular name) (Scientific name)

If you watch birds solely for your own enjoyment, a written description of your observations is unnecessary. But, if you have seen something unusual, and would like to share this with others, a written description is essential. Compilers of regional bird lists must insist that their records be scientifically sound; future bird students -- those studying occurrences 50 years from now -- must have a written record on which to depend. By providing the verifying written description, you are employing a basic rule of the scientific method.

We recognize that experienced field observers can provide important and reliable records, if supported by an adequate verifying description. Thus this request is an effort to perpetuate your record by obtaining concrete evidence which may be permanently preserved for examination by others in the future. This procedure is required for every extraordinary observation, irrespective of the observer.

Dates (s): <sup>(5 times)</sup> 17 July - 24 Sept 1988 Time Bird Seen: various to \_\_\_\_\_

Locality: Nee So Pah Reservoir

LaMan

Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: Nikon 9x30 binos ; Kowa 20-60x scope

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: \_\_\_\_\_ Plumage: immature; post-breeding

Light conditions: Various ; Bright sun to overcast

Distance from bird, and how measured: <sup>Estimated.</sup> 200 yds at closest; then further to > 500 yds.

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

Stood on ground on sandspit or swam in water with low body and head & neck above water level. Dove often to fish. Usually left sandspit perch to swim or fly away when I approached. Perched w/ D-r. Corms.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Plains reservoir.

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):

Mary. Vis Zedvi, Dan Bridges



APPENDIX 1I Continued

Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. Emphasize particularly the field marks used to identify the bird, but include a complete description of the bird. Include size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern; details on shape or size of bill, wings, and tail. (Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions is not enough). Describe what you actually saw in the field. I guessed the bird was about 20" long when perched. When mixed in with Double-crested Cormorants it was much smaller than the Double-crested: It was about  $\frac{2}{3}$  as long & nearly  $\frac{1}{2}$  as big in bulk. Slender, small neck & head with a short, slender bill about  $\frac{2}{3}$  as long as bill of D-cr. Cormorant & more slender & less powerful. Uppersides & back chocolate brown in color but lighter than D-cr. Corm. Throat, sides of face, chin, fore-neck light tan. Bill dark. No marked border to gular sack. In water rides lower than D-cr. Corm. The top of its head could pass under the chin of the D-cr. Corms. Easiest to pick out in flight. Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

None.

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Long, slender, dark, aquatic bird w/ long neck & bill = Cormorant.

Small size, slender head, neck & bill & tan-brown color rules out Double-cr. Cormorants which was bigger, heavier-billed, blacker (or more 2-toned in 1st year).

Prior experience with this and similar species:

I've seen many D-cr. Cormorants. I've seen a few Oliv. Cormorants in Colorado (3) and more in Texas. I've also seen Brandt's & Pelagic Corm.'s in Calif.

This report was written from notes made during ☒ after ☐ observation; from memory ☐.

Name (print) : MARK JANOS

Mailing address: 1 CACTUS DR. LA JUNTA, CO 81050

Signature: Mark Janos

Return Form To:

CFO Records Committee  
c/o Curator--Zoological Collections  
Denver Museum of Natural History  
City Park  
Denver, CO 80205