

Accepted

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD

UNUSUAL RECORD

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

Species: NEOTROPIC (OLIVACEOUS) CORMORANT PHALACROCORAX BRAZILIANS
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date(s): JUNE 4, 1994Number of birds seen: ONE Sex: UNKNOWN Plumage: BREEDINGLocality: IRELAND RESERVOIR (WELD CO. RD 49, 1/2 mi. N. OF CO 52) Elevation: ~5000'Nearest town: HUDSON County: WELDTime(s) observed: APPROX. 5 P.M.Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): AT LEAST 20 MINUTESOther observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):
MEMBERS OF THE BOULDER BIRD CLUB SAW THE BIRD;
NAMES ON SEPARATE SHEET.

TRIP LEADER -- WILLIAM KAEMPFER

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

JOE TEN BRINK

SAW THE BIRD ON JUNE 5 (SUNDAY) IN THE MORNING, AND CALLED
TO CONFIRM OUR SIGHTING THAT AFTERNOON

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

BRIGHT AFTERNOON SUNLIGHT (5 P.M. - SUN IN THE WEST). BIRD WAS
OBSERVED FROM THE NORTH BANK OF THE RESERVOIR, AND WAS
ESSENTIALLY DUE SOUTH TO SOUTH-SOUTHEAST OF OBSERVATION POINTOptical equipment used (e.g. power, types): LEICA 10X42 BINOCULARS, BUSHNELL 20X60 SCOPE,
MANY OTHERS BY OTHER PERSONS ON TRIPDistance, and how measured: 300-500 FT, EYEBALL ESTIMATE; BIRD CLOSE ENOUGH FOR
GOOD VIEWS THROUGH SCOPESIf photographed, type of equipment and film: N/AWho else photographed the bird? N/ADescribe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying): THE BIRD WAS PERCHED
IN THE VERY TOP OF A TREE IN THE HERON ROOKERY, AND WAS STATIONARY THERE
OF THE TIME. IT FLEW DOWN TO THE WATER FOR A SHORT TIME (3-5 min), IT
RETURNED TO PERCH. IT MOVED ITS HEAD AND CHANGED BODY POSITION OFTEN
ENOUGH TO GIVE GOOD VIEWS OF ALL FIELD MARKS.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: THE BIRD WAS PERCEPTIBLY SMALLER THAN NEARBY DOUBLE CRESTED
CORMORANTS, WITH A SLENDER BODY, NECK, AND HEAD, AND A LONGER TAIL. ITS PERCH
POSTURE WAS MORE ERECT THAN THE DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS. THE SIZE,
SHAPE, AND POSTURE WERE THE FACTORS THAT DREW ATTENTION TO THE BIRD.
THEN, THE ABSENCE OF THE YELLOW/ORANGE THROAT POUCH CONFIRMED
THAT THIS WAS NOT A DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT. (OVER)

Description (continued): CLOSER OBSERVATION WITH A SPOTTING SCOPE REVEALED A V-SHAPED WHITE BORDER AROUND THE BASE OF THE BILL AND THROAT POUCH. WHEN THE BIRD TURNED ITS HEAD IN THE SUNLIGHT, WHITE FEATHERS ON THE SIDE OF THE HEAD AND NECK WERE CLEARLY SEEN. THESE MARKS WERE SUFFICIENT TO CONFIRM ITS IDENTIFICATION AS A NEOTROPIC (OR OLIVACEOUS) CORMORANT, IN BREEDING PLUMAGE, BASED ON INFORMATION PRESENTED IN THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC FIELD GUIDE. THE BIRD WAS PERCHED ON A BRANCH, A FIELD BEHAVIOR SPECIFIC TO THE NEOTROPIC CORMORANT (BIRDER'S HANDBOOK)

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration): NONE

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:
HERON ROOKERY IN TALL TREES IN THE MIDDLE OF IRELAND RESERVOIR. BIRD WAS IN TOP OF A TREE AT THE EDGE OF THE ROOKERY, AT THE SAME LEVEL AS NESTING GREAT BLUE HERONS AND DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS. BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERONS, SNOWY & CATTLE EGRETS NESTING IN LOWER BUSHES/TREES DIRECTLY BELOW

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

- A: NO OTHER NORTH AMERICAN CORMORANT SPECIES HAS THE OBSERVED FIELD MARKS
B: THE ABUNDANT DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS PRESENT IN THE ROOKERY WERE LARGER, HEAVIER, & SHORTER-TAILED, AND HAD THE PROMINENT YELLOW-ORANGE THROAT POUCH, ~~OR~~ CLEARLY DIFFERENT FROM THE NEOTROPIC CORMORANT.

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

MY WIFE, SUZI, AND I HAVE IDENTIFIED NEOTROPIC CORMORANTS IN THE PRESENCE OF DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS ON THREE PREVIOUS OCCASIONS: TWICE AT BOSQUE DEL APACHE N.W.R., SAN ANTONIO, NM, AND ONCE AT PATAGONIA LAKE S.P., AZ, WHILE ON A DFO FIELD TRIP WITH ROBERT RICHTER.

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

- a) at time of observation: NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC FIELD GUIDE
b) after observation: PETERSON WESTERN FIELD GUIDE (NOT MUCH HELP),
AUDUBON MASTER GUIDE TO BIRDING, VOL. I (HELPFUL)
BIRDER'S HANDBOOK (EARLICH, ETAL) (HELPFUL)

This report was written from reports made during _____, after observation _____ from memory X

Date and time report was written: TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 8:30 P.M.

Reporting observer: MYRON N. PLOOSTER Signature: Myron N. Plaster

Address: 7420 SPRING DRIVE, BOULDER, CO 80303 PHONE (303) 494-6708

Return to:
Bill Prather
C.F.O. Official Records Committee
13810 WCR 1
Longmont, Colorado 80504

BBC TRIP MEMBERS WHO SAW NEOTROPIC CORMORANT

William Kaempfer (Trip Leader) 4770 Harrison Ave., Boulder,, CO 80303	939-8005
Jay Berger & Maureen Ivy 1016 Main St., Louisville, CO 80027	665-7435
Bob ^{Joe} and Wanee Butler 795 Newland Ct., Boulder, CO 80303	494-0319
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Myron and Suzi Plooster 7420 Spring Drive, Boulder, CO 80303	494-6708
Bob and Ru Wing Summer visitors, address unknown	
Mary Rydell Visitor, Pebble Beach, CA	