

COLORADO RARE BIRD REPORT

4-94-5  
Accepted

OLIVACEOUS CORMORANT  
Phalacrocorax olivaceus

Location: Lake Henry; Ordway; Crowley County, Colorado

Date: September 11, 1994

Setting:

Brandon Percival and I almost simultaneously saw this bird. We both initially thought that it was too small and slender for a Double-crested Cormorant. It was perched on the beach at the north shore of Lake Henry. We observed it on the beach, in full sun, from as close as 100 yards through our scopes (Kowa TSN4 20-60X). The entire observation period was from 9:35-10:00 a.m. At first it was perched with California Gulls. Later it flew out into the water and swam around. It was never in close company with the few Double-crested Cormorants.

Description:

This was a post-breeding adult. Although it was never next to a Double-crested Cormorant the bird seemed smaller. It was also more slender appearing with a more slender neck and bill. The tail, which was kinked up behind it on the sand, appeared quite long. The legs were dark and the eyes bluish. Overall the bird was a single dark color, not two-toned like a young Double-crested Cormorant. At a distance the bird looked black. But in the scope the body was blackish, while the head, foreneck and breast were duller and flatter in color, being a very dark brown. The bill was mottled a dirty yellow. The gular sack was yellow-orange. There was a thin, distinct white line bordering the edge of the throat, extending from the bottom of the eye, back to a sharp corner at the edge of the gape, then forward under the chin. The white was brightest under the chin.

Similar Species:

The obvious I.D. contender is the Double-crested Cormorant. This bird appeared smaller, more slender and with a longer tail, although there was no direct comparison. The combination of white border to the gular pouch and the sharp corner to the throat pouch behind the bill eliminate the larger Double-crested Cormorant.

Experience with Species:

I have seen many Double-crested Cormorants and quite a few Olivaceous Cormorants. The most recent of these were some along the south Texas coast and around Falcon Dam in March 1994. I also found a Colorado Olivaceous Cormorant during the summer of 1988, at Nee So Pah Reservoir.

This report was prepared from notes made at the time of observation.

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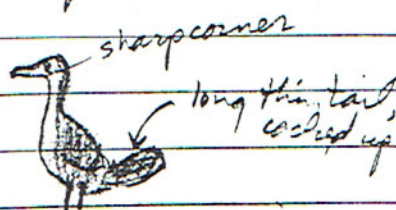
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Whitish rump shows  
through folded wings;  
gray tail: Gray face  
with ill-defined pale  
superciliary.

\*Olivaceous Cormorant - 1 in

~9:35 - 10:00 am. Full sun;  
in scope; ~100 yds & >.  
Perched on sand in full  
profile w/ Calif Gulls;  
& in flight & in water.  
Never next to D-C.  
Seemingly smaller;

slender; slender-necked  
& billed; & long tailed.  
Dark legs.



Color black from a distance  
but browner on head,  
foreneck & breast (barely).  
Eye bluish; Bill mottled-  
or dirty-yellow; gular  
sack orange; border to  
feathered

gular sack at thin, white  
distinct line, extending  
from eye, back to sharp  
corner, then forward  
under chin; brightest  
white under chin



Wilson's Wonders 20

Mac G " 2

Yellow " 1

Orange-cr " 2

empid sp. 1

Blue Grosbeak 1

Brown Thrasher 6

Chipp Sparrow 15

Clay-c " 1

Barn Swallow 10

→ Lake Meredith

Snowy Egret 3

→ Lake Holbrook

L. Yellowlegs 2