

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD ☐UNUSUAL RECORD ☒

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

Species: Neotropic Cormorant / Phalacrocorax brasilianus
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date(s): Oct. 30, 1994 Nov. 1, 1994Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: Immature

Latilong: _____ Distribution Code: _____ Habitat Code: _____

Locality: Cherry Creek Reservoir State Park Elevation: _____Nearest town: Englewood County: ArapahoeTime(s) observed: 11:30 a - 12 noonDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 30 mins.

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

NoneOther observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers): Jack Reddall, 4450 S. Alton St.Englewood, CO 80111 771-5308 on Nov. 1,Light^{and weather} conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light): viewing conditions were marginal at best. The sky was heavily overcast, foggy, snow showers, wind out of the north 10-15 mph. about 28°F. The light level was very low, but the bird would have been front-lit, if the sun were out.Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): Bushnell Spacemaster scope, 40xDistance and how measured: Approx. 1000 ft.

If photographed, type of equipment and film: _____

Who else photographed the bird: _____

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

Perched and preening, on tree stump in reservoir.It was not observed flying or swimming.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: This bird was clearly a cormorant, with all that entails morphologically. It is best described by comparison to the Double-crested Cormorant, many of which were in the immediate vicinity of the Neotropic Cormorant. The most obvious characteristic was its size, about 2/3 that of the

Description (continued): Double-crested with a slimmer build. The size difference was apparent with the naked eye, even at that distance under those visibility conditions. Other differences discernible under adverse conditions were a slimmer, somewhat shorter bill (proportionally) and a bill pale yellow rather than orange. There was no orange facial skin or gular pouch. Rather, the chin/throat area was whitish, grading gradually to light brown down the underside of the neck. Reddall had much more favorable conditions on Nov. 1, and because the bird had its back to him, he was able to note & describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, longer (i.e. from perch, in flight), duration): of the Neotropic compared to the Double-crested. Reddall observed the same features of size, bill size and coloration that I observed.

N/A

We both noted the overall brownish coloration of the plumage, which was more apparent to Reddall with better light. The whitish throat and brownish tone led to the immature designation.

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

Large inland freshwater reservoir

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species? The Double-crested was eliminated by direct visual comparison. Other possibilities (however improbable) might be Pelagic Cormorant, which is about the same size as Neotropic, but which has a much slimmer bill and smaller head and lacks the white chin/throat in subadult plumage.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? I have studied Neotropic and Double-crested side by side on the Texas coast several times. I have studied Double-crested, Brandt's and Pelagic side by side in California many times, and in Alaska I have seen many Pelagic and Red-faced side by side.

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

a) At time of observation: None

b) After observation: Seabirds - An Identification Guide, by Peter Harrison. The bird looked very much like the immature shown on p. 10.

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

Date and time report was written: Nov. 2, 1994

Reporting observer: JB Hayes

Signature: JB Hayes

Address: 1517 W. Briarwood Ave. Littleton CO 80120

All reports will be maintained permanently at the address below:

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