

APPENDIX V  
UTAH FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS  
UTAH BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE by Nelson Beschan Page 1 of 2.

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE. FOR UTAH BIRD RECORDS CODING ONLY.

Lat/long \_\_\_\_\_ Record type \_\_\_\_\_ Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Habitat \_\_\_\_\_ Disposition \_\_\_\_\_ Cx Nos. \_\_\_\_\_

Common Name Cormorant (Double-crested or Olivaceous?)  
Scientific Name Phalacrocorax (auritus or olivaceus?)  
Obs. date Oct. 7, 1989 Time(s) 0945-55 + 1400-10  
Duration of obs. 20 minutes  
Distance from bird 100-40 yards  
Light conditions Full shade to Full sun at back  
Optical equip. Bausch + Lomb 15-60x zoom scope  
Photo equip. OM2 SLR with 205mm telephoto at 1410.  
Notes made at time of sighting  Date report prepared Oct. 16, 1989  
Notes made later from memory

Weather at time of this observation.  
0945-55: clear + warm w/ Full shade on bird.  
1400-10: " + " w/ " sun on bird.  
Prior weather and number of days since change  
Same (highs mid 70's °F to mid 90's °F)  
w/ occasional light rains, for many weeks.  
Locality On rock in Colorado River  
5.5 miles above the Moab bridge.  
Lat/long block number 18

Enter number of birds in each category. Total number observed. <u>one</u>	GENDER(S)	AGES(S)	PLUMAGE(S)	PHOTO(S)
	Males _____ Females _____ ♀ or Imms <u>1</u> Unknowns _____	Adults _____ Juv/Imms <u>1</u> 2/3 yr birds _____ Unknowns _____	Breeding _____ Transition _____ Eclipse _____ Dark phase _____ Winter _____ Light ph. _____ Other _____	Available _____ Enclosed _____

Description of bird: Size, colors, all field marks OBSERVED. - Unique features of this individual, if any.

About 2 ft long (very roughly estimated); long straight thin bill w/ prominent hook at tip of upper mandible; Tail fairly long, fan-shaped w/ all feather tips narrow, + middle rectrices longest. Short tarsi + webbed feet black.

0945-55: (Full shade) Bird was perched w/ only back towards me. All upper parts blackish. Side view of face showed a thin whitish line starting exactly at gape + going continuously til out of view under chin. Throat pouch appeared to be a brownish yellow-orange. No visible crest.

1400-10: (Full sun at back) Bird still perched on same boulder, but facing diagonally to my right. Upper parts still blackish w/ hint of brown. Upper belly a brown wash fading slightly from upper breast to throat pouch. Many head movements revealed that the thin whitish line along edge of throat pouch was continuous under chin from exactly gape to gape. In the light the throat now appeared a dull yellow-orange. No visible crest. The white line was ~ 1/8" wide or less.

Slight crook in neck during flight, but it did not appear to be as pronounced as the supposedly diagnostic(?) pronounced crook of the double-crested.

ent sp. on Oct. 7, 1989 by

marks which were not seen. Why not?

Variations from expected field marks.

I am not aware of whether or not any im. D-c. cormorants show the thin white line (1/8" wide or less) along the edge of the throat pouch.

List similar species and describe why or how you eliminated them.

Brandt's + Pelagic Cormorants: Since I know nothing about the possible range of throat pouch + underparts coloration<sup>etc.</sup> of these 2 species' immatures, the bird I saw could possibly be either of these.

Behavior of this bird. Other species seen with this one. Any interaction between birds?

In morning it was perched + looking around while on 2 feet. In afternoon it was perched on one foot + roosting when I was at 100 yds, but by the time I took photo at ~ 75 yds it had both feet down + was stretched vertically in an alert posture. When I reached ~ 60 yards + stopped to take 2nd photo, it flew away from me, descending to + "walking on water" before fully airborne in ~ 20 yards, after which it circled back + flew by me ~ 40 yds away + 25 ft above water.

Habitat at this location. Adjacent or near by habitat, if significant.

Colorado River high desert riparian, elev. ~ 3,950 ft.; high steep sandy banks w/ shrub-willows + tamarisks + scattered boulders. Water slightly silty w/ slow, moderately deep (probably 10 ft. max.) pools around the boulder + fish jumping frequently.

Describe bird's song or sounds.

None.

Print reporter's name, address, phone number.

Nelson Boschen  
P.O. Box 20  
Moab, UT 84532  
(801) 259-6973

Signature Nelson S. Boschen Jr.

What is your experience with this or similar birds?

Olivaceous: I've seen a handful twice in Texas, but no immatures.  
D-c.: I've seen adults fairly often but no immatures.

Corroborating observers not reporting separately.

_____	_____
Print Name	Signature
_____	_____
Print Name	Signature
_____	_____
Print Name	Signature
_____	_____
Print Name	Signature

April 28, 1990

Dear Ella,

Enclosed is a letter (+ reply envelope) from a gentleman in NM who needs info on Utah's hummers, about which I know nothing. I thought you or someone you know might be able to answer his questions.

Things are moving along nicely for our Moab sloughs protection endeavor. Tomorrow I'm meeting with Cris Montague<sup>(a?)</sup> + the primary realtor to see the sloughs + discuss sales possibilities. Also, UDWK is now interested in obtaining some funding for its purchase.

The cormorant slide is for UOS to keep. Yes, Paul Lehuan's letter is very interesting, but his comments still don't help me decide in favor of one species only. As you said, the white line is also on some young D-C's. Yes, the orange gular pouch did come to a definite point at the base  $\Rightarrow$ , + if such is not the case on any the D-C. young, then we definitely had an olivaceous (let me know how this mark appears on your D-C. young encountered); however, the white line did not visibly extend above the gape, tho it may have been indistinct. The underpart shading was definitely 2-toned (i.e., lighter anteriorly) but not as light as in the Golden + Nat'l Geo. Field guide's D-C. illustrations, nor as dark as the im. illustrations of the Olivaceous in the same guides, so I guess were nowhere with that field mark.

I wish I had more experience with the two immatures, but, as Paul said, c'est la vie.

Sincerely,

Yelson

16-1989  
Po Box 1061  
Goleta, CA 93116

27 Jan. 1990

Ella,

I've looked over the enclosed cormorant record, and last weekend I took it <sup>slide only</sup> to our annual Calif. Bird Records Committee meeting and showed it to the entire committee. Here are my (our) comments:

- too bad this bird wasn't seen and/or photo'd side by side with Double-crested; that would have better helped to answer questions on its size and proportions. Those are hard to tell in the photo. Also it would have helped if the observer had more comparative experience between with the two species - but c'est la vie.

- despite the above comments above, we feel the bird does appear to be an Olivaceous Cormorant!! The thin white border to the gular area described, but not visible in the photo, is a good mark. And we think we can sort of make out in the picture the orangey throat (gular) color coming to somewhat of a point toward the rear, a good mark for this species. The gular area is duller and more restricted than in Double-crested, and I we vaguely get that feel from the photo and description.

- young Olivaceous tend to be darker (brownier) on the breast, neck, etc. than the Double-crested. The description does not clearly point to one or the other on this basis, and the photo, if anything suggests a lighter neck, more like Double-crested.

- forget about Brandt's and Pelagic. They are eliminated for a zillion reasons.

Hope This helps.

Paul Lehman