

NOTES

OLIVACEOUS CORMORANT RECORD FOR CALIFORNIA

On the morning of 13 April 1971 while looking at birds in the vicinity of Imperial Dam with Bill Clow and Richard MacIntosh, I found an Olivaceous Cormorant *Phalacrocorax olivaceus* in breeding plumage. The bird was found among Double-crested Cormorants *P. auritus* on West Pond, situated about one quarter mile west of Imperial Dam on the California side of the Colorado River. During the two hours we had the bird under observation it was perched on a short snag in the pond with an adult and three immature Double-crested Cormorants. The close proximity of the bird to the Double-crested Cormorants enabled us to make a direct size comparison of the two species.

The following description was taken while observing the bird through a 25X Bushnell spotting scope at 75 to 100 yards with the sun directly behind us:

Plumage: body color black; wing feathers were slightly paler with a faint greenish iridescence. Soft parts: gular pouch fleshy pink (this was especially noticeable when the bird "yawned," and was probably due to the sunlight shining through the thin, vascularized pouch tissue); pouch bordered posteriorly by a conspicuous white line; iris green; bill, legs and feet dull black.

The Olivaceous Cormorant was about three-fourths the length, and one half the bulk, of the Double-crested Cormorants with which it was associated. It had a long tail for a cormorant and a disproportionately small neck, head, and bill.

This is the first observation of the Olivaceous Cormorant in California. It breeds north to southern Sonora on the Pacific coast (van Rossem, 1945) and to Louisiana on the Gulf of Mexico (Lowery, 1960). There are at least eight records for Arizona (Phillips, et al., 1964; Audubon Field Notes, 15:348, 16:354, 18:476 & 527, 24:76 & 526, 25:87), seven records for Oklahoma (Sutton, 1967; AFN, 24:694, 25:75) and five records for New Mexico (Hubbard, 1970). Strays have been reported from Kansas, Illinois, and Colorado (A.O.U., 1957); however, the Illinois record, originally reported by Ridgway (1880), may be in error. I know of no records for Baja California.

LITERATURE CITED

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