

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2015-06-26 10:02:29
Observer's Name	August Mirabella
E-mail	augustmirabella@aol.com
Phone	2153680594
Observer's Address	Street Address: 1443 Wheaton Lane City: North Wales State / Province: Pennsylvania Postal / Zip Code: 19454 Country: United States
Names of additional observers	August Mirabella
Species (Common Name)	Double-crested Cormorant(White-crested)
Species (Scientific Name)	Phalacrocorax auritus
Subspecies (if known)	cincinatus/albociliatus
Number of individuals	2
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	Adult alternate
Observation Date and Time	04-14-2015 2:30 PM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S22867466
County	Bucks
Location (City, Borough, Township)	New Britain Twp.
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Peace Valley Park
GPS coordinates of sighting	40.3261424,-75.1893997
Habitat	Lake and roost on dam structure
Distance to bird	200 feet
Viewing conditions	Cloudy
Optical equipment used	7X42 Bins and 15-60 power Leica Scope

Description

One bird found 4/7 by Ray Hendrick & relocated 4/11 by me and Judy Mirabella <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S22807486>. Again seen 4/13 <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S22847808> and two seen 4/14. eBird allows only a combo entry for White-crested of two subspecies *cincinatus*/*albociliatus*. I believe based on pictures and BNA online that the birds were *albociliatus* since the white crests were not solid white or long as in *cincinatus* but matched the smaller crests with spinkled black feathers in the white. Also, I think the *cincinatus* is supposed to be bigger, which I could not detect. The crests were obviously white but through the scope, there were some black plumes as well. There were about 230 birds present on this date, all with similar markings except for the white crests on these two birds. The second bird was only a few feet from the first and appeared to have less white in the crests. I believe the extent of the white clearly matches the photos I saw on the Internet.

Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)

One seen in flotilla of DCCOs on two days and then two on the concrete dam control tower on this date. They were preening on the tower.

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

The pattern of white does not match the pattern on alternate Great or Neotropical Cormorant.

Discussion – anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:

BNA makes no mention of white crests in the eastern auritus subspecies or other southeast and Caribbean subspecies. It also says *cincinatus* breeds in Alaska and winters along the Alaska/Canada coast and *albociliatus* is on the US mainland west coast down to Mexico. It said it may go as far east as Montana, Nevada, and New Mexico. A search of eBird only found four entries east of that range. There was one on Cape Cod and three on the eastern Great Lakes. Three of the four were in Apr or May 2014 and 2015 plus a historical entry from May 1997. The Cape Cod entry had a picture identical to the birds at Peace Valley entered by Jeremiah Trimble. So apparently some end up going with *auritus* in spring migration to east of their presumed origin.

Pictures below were taken of one bird 4-11 and then on 4/14 there are two pictures, one of each bird. The last is from 4/13.

Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)

Yes, matches what is in BNA and the Trimble photo in eBird that was validated.

During

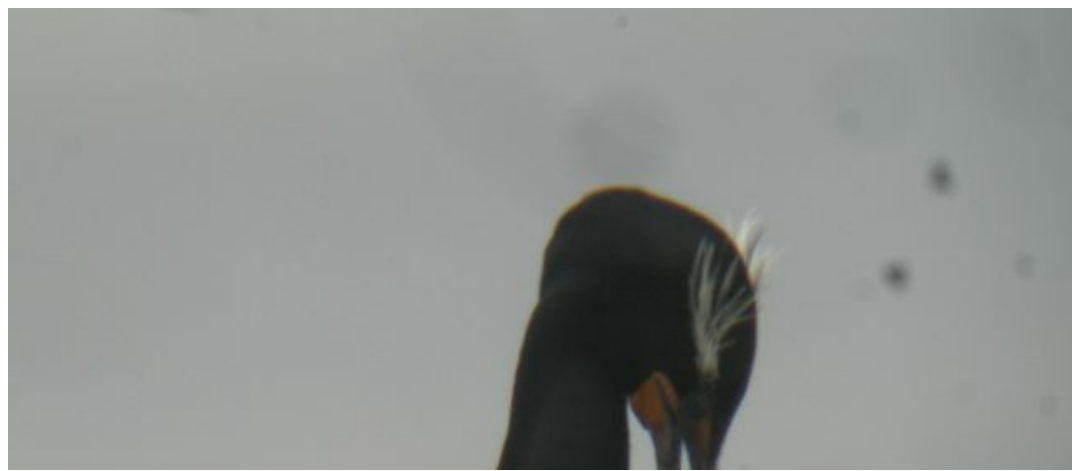
Sibley Guide

After

BNA Online, Internet photos.

Supporting evidence (check all that apply)

Photograph

Upload images, audio, video or drawings



[Dbl-cr. Cormorant \(White-crested\) #1 4-14-15.jpg](#)



[Dbl-cr. Cormorant \(White-crested\) #2 4-14-15.jpg](#)



[Dbl-cr. Cormorant \(White-crested\) 4-11-15.jpg](#)