

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2015-10-03 11:04:30
Observer's Name	August Mirabella
E-mail	augustmirabella@aol.com
Phone	215-368-0594
Observer's Address	Street Address: 1443 Wheaton Lane City: North Wales State / Province: PA Postal / Zip Code: 19454 Country: United States
Names of additional observers	Note: this is an addendum/revision to previous submission. See previous.
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	see original submission
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	See original submission
Distance to bird	See original submission
Viewing conditions	See original submission
Optical equipment used	See original submission

Description	<p>See original submission. This is an addendum/revision to the original. Thanks to Geoff Malosh who suggested these two birds may have been rare white-crested auritus, which resulted in more info from Paul Hess via Geoff, and more info from other experts as a result of my inquiry to Marshall Iliff at eBird. My thoughts now are that although my one close up shows a bird consistent with pictures and descriptions of albociliatus, the rare white-crested auritus can not be ruled out. The consensus from a few experts seems to be that the two subspecies can NOT be reliably identified in the field. The albociliatus also can be all black occasionally. The straightness (albociliatus), or curliness (auritus) of the plumes is "usually" another difference but not conclusive. They look straight to me in my photo. My inquiry to Iliff has resulted in a strong consensus so far that in the next taxonomy update in eBird, these subspecies may be removed as choices due to NOT being reliably separable in the field. This is consistent with recent policy that was applied in the last eBird update that lumped subspecies for the same reason.</p> <p>My earlier conclusions were based on Birds of North America Online only, which I have felt for some time is lacking and this situation proves it. Some references that provide comments supporting the occasional variations are: Identification Guide to North American Birds, Part II (Pyle, 2008) Palmer's Handbook of North American Birds, Vol. 1 Ron Pittaway and Peter Burke - file:///C:/Users/augus/Downloads/dccormorants.pdf</p> <p>Photos were submitted with my original submission.</p>
Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)	See original submission
Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)	See previous submission. See above-probably not separable in the field.
Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)	No per above. I have go with the references above that indicate I cannot be sure.
During	See original submission
After	See original submission
Supporting evidence (check all that apply)	Photograph
Click to edit	PORC-webform00270