

Another Great Cormorant on the Mississippi Gulf Coast

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On 8 September 1984, we identified a Great Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo) at the east end of Bellefontaine Beach, Jackson County, Mississippi. The cormorant was sitting on a piling about 100 m from the road on which we were standing. It was 10:30, sunny, and about 32 C (89 F), with winds blowing about 10-15 knots. We watched the bird for about 10 minutes the first time, and an hour later we observed it for another 5 minutes. We viewed the bird with 7 X binoculars and a 20-60 X zoom spotting scope.

The Great Cormorant was in its first-year plumage, and we specifically noted the lack of an orange gular area, the presence of a very white area from cheek to cheek, and a dark neck and breast with a white belly.

We also saw the bird on 9 Sept. with a 20-40 X zoom spotting scope, although at that time it was far offshore and perched on a buoy with 20 Brown Pelicans (Pelecanus occidentalis). The bird was smaller than the pelicans, but larger than the Double-crested Cormorant which was on a nearby piling.

Previous records of this northeastern species have included sightings by Larry Gates and Judy Toups of an immature on 1 November 1978 at Bellefontaine Beach (Jackson and Cooley 1978), and by Toups of an immature on 10 April 1984 at Biloxi (Hodges and Jackson 1984).

Literature Cited

- Hodges, M.F., Jr., and J.A. Jackson. 1984. Birds around the state: December 1983-November 1984. Miss. Kite 14:12-25.
- Jackson, J.A., and C.D. Cooley. 1978. Birds around the state: December 1977 through November 1978. Miss. Kite 8:48-62.
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Late Nesting of Eastern Bluebirds in Mississippi

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On 31 July 1984, 15 days after five young fledged from a nest box in Starkville, Oktibbeha Co., Mississippi, a pair of Eastern Bluebirds (*Sialia sialis*) returned and the female began nest-building. By 8 August, 4 eggs had been laid. Of these, only two hatched (on 21 and 22 August). The two nestlings fledged within 5 minutes of each other on the evening of 7 September. The two unhatched eggs were infertile.

Throughout the incubation period, four juveniles from the previous brood were frequently on or near the nest box. The adults made only token efforts to drive them away the last two days before the late brood fledged. The four older juveniles and one of the late fledglings were seen together on 15 September. Although young of earlier broods are known to feed young of later broods in some species, such was never observed in this case.