

From: BirdOfTheWeek@abcbirds.org info@abcbirds.org
Subject: Double-crested Cormorant: American Shag
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American Bird
Conservancy

Bird of the Week

Double-crested Cormorant



Fast Facts:

Scientific Name:

Nannopterum auritum

Population:

630,000

Trend: Stable

Habitat:

Widely distributed across North America, from the Aleutian Islands in Alaska south to Florida, Mexico, and the Caribbean

The big, black **Double-crested Cormorant** is a common waterbird

of lakes and shorelines throughout North America. At first glance, the only color on a Double-crested Cormorant seems to be its yellowish-orange throat (gular) pouch and facial skin. However, a closer look reveals arresting aquamarine eyes, a bright blue mouth lining, and a glossy sheen to the body feathers. The double crests that give this cormorant its name are wispy black or white plumes, only visible during the breeding season. This bird is known to hang out on tree branches or at the water's edge with its wings spread wide.

What's this bird doing — and why is it sharing a behavior similar to that observed with vultures?

Learn More About the Double-crested Cormorant



The Double-crested Cormorant was once considered a species of concern because of steep population declines resulting from DDT use.

Cormorant populations have rebounded since that toxin was banned, but now the species faces unnecessary persecution from humans who share their habitat, the threat of habitat loss, and ongoing risks from other pesticides and toxins.

Clearing and development of forested wetlands reduces available nesting and foraging habitats. This species is very sensitive to human activity at nesting colonies and will quickly abandon nests when disturbed, leaving eggs and chicks vulnerable to predation and overheating.

Double-crested Cormorants are top-flight fishers that congregate in areas where fish are abundant. Unfortunately, this sometimes leads them to commercial and sports fisheries as well as aquaculture facilities, and can bring them into unnecessary conflict with humans who perceive them as pests. Like many waterbirds, cormorants are sometimes killed or injured when they are caught on fishhooks and entangled in gillnets, fishing lines, lobster traps, or trawls.

[Read on and find out more about how ABC is helping to conserve this species »](#)





Defend Science: Protect the Lesser Prairie-Chicken

Endangered species are under attack, and the Lesser Prairie-Chicken has become the latest victim of dangerous and unscientific policies.

A federal judge in Texas recently struck down the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 2022 ruling to list the species under the Endangered Species Act — erasing more than three decades of scientific study and conservation activism. **These birds are on the brink of extinction and have just lost one of its strongest sources of protection: ESA listing.**

Now, members of Congress are pushing to **permanently prevent this iconic bird from ever being listed under the ESA again with H.R. 587.**

Take Bold Action for Birds NOW: Urge your Senators and Representatives to oppose H.R. 587 and all harmful policy riders in the House Interior spending bill that would

permanently de-list the Lesser Prairie-Chicken and shrink their habitat.

TAKE ACTION NOW



Plastic Kills Birds: Learn Why and How You Can Help

Each year approximately 17.6 billion pounds of plastic enters the ocean. If you have trouble fathoming such a “heavy” number, try imagining a **garbage-truck-sized load dumped every minute**, which is what it would take to accumulate this much trash.

Marine debris — defined as solid, human-made trash in the marine environment — is made up of many different things, but more often than not it's plastic-based. **For sea- and shorebirds, plastic trash**

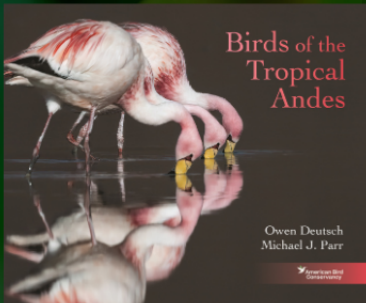
is a major threat, claiming the lives of countless birds every year.

Learn where all this plastic comes from, how it gets into the ocean, and why it's so detrimental for birds — **as well as simple tips to begin reducing your plastic footprint today.**

LEARN MORE

Exclusive Offer:

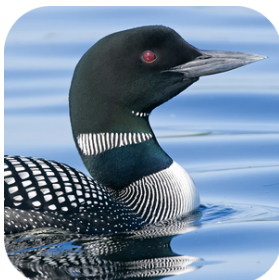
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Night Raven

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Diver:
Common Loon

Dinosaur Bird:
Great Blue Heron

Sea Bird:
Northern Gannet

Night Raven:
**Black-crowned
Night-Heron**

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