

# Double-crested Cormorant:

## *Phalacrocorax auritus*



**D**ouble-crested Cormorants are found along inland waterways and in coastal areas and is widely distributed across North America and down to Mexico. Its diet consists mainly of fish, which the cormorant hunts by swimming and diving. This species measures 28-35 in. long.

Normally all-black birds, both males and females gain a small double crest of black and white feathers during breeding season. The feathers of all cormorants are not waterproof, so they must spend time drying them out after being in the water which is why they are often seen perched with wings spread. Once threatened by use of DDT (synthetic pesticide), the numbers of this bird have increased markedly in recent years.

