

generally incorrectly called the Common Cormorant. This species probably does occur but is not common. We examined many hundred birds at comparatively close range about Percé and Gaspé basin but did not detect any that could be mistaken for it, and it is not likely that they breed in the immediate neighbourhood.

The Double-crested Cormorant is a rather large bird, comparing favourably in this respect with a good sized domestic duck, but slimmer in build and more graceful in outline. Sitting in the water it has quite a loon-like appearance both in silhouette and action. The adult is solid black with green reflections over the most of the body plumage. The back feathers are vaguely margined with brown, making each feather appear to stand out as if in relief. Spaces about the eyes, and at the base of the bill, and a small though well developed gular or throat pouch are bare of feathers and coloured bright orange. The eyes are green with purple edges to the lids and the interior of the mouth is a brilliant, almost cobalt, blue. The younger birds are dull brown, a little lighter below, and the facial colours much reduced in brightness. In the young of the year these bare patches are flesh pink with dull cloudings, but every gradation in colour of both naked and feathered parts appears at appropriate ages.

At Percé the cormorants nest only on the top of Percé rock. That great isolated fragment standing in the sea just off the salient point of the coast forms an ideal nesting place for them and the Herring gulls with whom they share the available space. The Rock, 2,100 feet long, about 80 feet wide on top, and nearly 300 in height, with smooth, sheer, unscalable sides, pierced through with its giant natural arch, is too well known to demand more than general remark here. The top is flat, gently undulating, and given up entirely to the bird association before mentioned. From a distance, the top of the rock appears in summer to be covered with sparkling frost or snow; but a closer inspection, from Mount Joli on the mainland, 800 feet or so away, resolves this frosting into white bodies of gulls and ground plastered with guano. Everything is white, not a blade of grass shows. Slight mounds here and there with birds perched on top