

river, but keeping almost constantly around the cape, under shelter of the enormous breakers which are incessantly dashing against it, successfully defies all attempts to shoot it. The procuring of the only specimen which I was ever enabled to kill, almost cost the lives of myself and eight men. Our boat was carried with frightful velocity into the furious breakers, and a full hour was consumed in unremitting efforts to escape the danger towards which the swift current was hurrying us.

The Indians of the N. W. coast make cloaks of the skins of this bird sewed together. It is probably even more numerous to the north of Cape Disappointment, and must necessarily frequent less inaccessible places.

TOWNSEND'S CORMORANT.

*Phalacrocorax *Townsendi*, (AUDUBON.) Birds of America, Vol. IV., pi. 412. Male.

Bill light-yellow, black above; crown, and upper part of the neck to the interscapulars, yellowish-fuscous; lateral part of the hind-head and neck, pointed with white like the preceding species; middle of the back, rump and upper tail-coverts, dark greenish, reflecting purple; tail long, dusky; lateral portion of the upper surface of the body, including the scapulars and wings, yellowish-fuscous, each feather edged with blackish; bare space on the gullet, which includes the eye, and extends upon the lores, light red, streaked with a deeper tint; sides of the head, and throat whitish-cinereous; breast and belly yellowish-rufous, slightly varied with dusky; vent and lower tail-coverts dark brownish-fuscous; a few longitudinal points of white on the tibial feathers; legs and feet black. Irides dark hazel. Length about 28 inches.

This species inhabits the Columbia river, and is not uncommon. It is seldom seen near the sea, but is mostly observed high up upon the river. It is, like most species of its genus, partially gregarious, and is fond of resting in company. The old trees which are fastened in the bottom of the river, and protrude above the surface, and the isolated rocks in the stream, are its favorite places of resort. Here it sits, sometimes for hours together, indolently gazing into the water, and only leaving its perch to seize an unsuspecting fish, which may happen to pass