

Brandt's Cormorant

Phalacrocorax penicillatus

A large cormorant of the Pacific Coast, the Brandt's Cormorant is found only in marine environments.

Keys to Identification

Adult Description

- Large, dark water bird.
- Long body and long neck.
- Medium-sized bill is blunt or hooked at tip.
- Pale patch at base of bill.
- Bill dark.

Immature Description

Juvenile brownish black with tan on underparts, lightest on lower breast where it forms a pale "V" at the border of breast and neck.

Cool Facts

- The Brandt's Cormorant is the least vocal of the North American cormorants at the nest. It makes sounds that are audible only from a few feet away.
- In the main part of its range, from California to Washington, the Brandt's Cormorant is tied to the rich food sources associated with upwellings of the California Current. In the nonbreeding season, when the effects of this current diminish, populations redistribute along the coast, occurring where food is locally available.

Measurements

Both Sexes

- Length - 27.6 - 31.1 inches
- Wingspan - 42.5 inches
- Weight - 49.4 - 95.2 ounces

