

Published on *South Coast Conservation Program* (<http://sccp.ca>)

## Double-crested Cormorant

### *Phalacrocorax auritus*

This member of the family Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants and Shags), is part of a unique order found worldwide. Most birds in this order have a bare throat patch ("gular patch"), and the nostrils have evolved into dysfunctional slits, forcing them to breathe through their mouths. Considered a pest in the Great Lakes region of eastern North America, the species is declining in BC.



Overwintering adults and juveniles  
Gord Gadsden



Close up of crests in breeding male.  
Mark Rauzon USFWS



Nest colony or rookery Trudy Chatwin



Male in breeding plumage. Mike Baird  
Wikipedia



Non-breeding plumage. Mdf Wikipedia

## Characteristics

A large diving bird with a stocky body, long neck and moderately hooked beak. Breeding adults are iridescent, greenish-black with orange-yellow skin on the face and gular patch, eyes are aqua coloured. Juveniles and non-breeding birds are browner in colour. The double crest (“shag”) is only found on adults early in the breeding season.

## Status

**Global Status:** G5  
**Provincial Status:** S3S4B  
**BC List Status:** Blue (Considered to be of Special Concern)

## Resources

### BC Species and Ecosystems Explorer: Species and Ecosystems Search

A source for authoritative conservation information on thousands of plants and animals and hundreds of ecological communities in BC. From here connect to all provincial and federal recovery plans (including the SARA Registry), COSEWIC (Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada), Identified Wildlife guidance and conservation requirements for specific species and ecological communities of conservation concern impacted by forestry activities) and links to E-Flora and E-Fauna (the Electronic Atlas of the Plants and Wildlife of British Columbia).

### British Columbia’s Coast Region Species & Ecosystems of Conservation Concern

A joint venture resource providing comprehensive information on a range of species and ecological communities specific to the Coast Region of BC (including the South, Central and North Coast, Vancouver Island and Haida Gwaii).

### Develop With Care Guidelines (see Lower Mainland Region section)

Environmental guidelines for urban and rural land development in BC.

### Species at Risk & Local Governments a Primer for BC

**Source URL:** <http://sccp.ca/species-habitat/double-crested-cormorant>

### **Links**

[1] <http://sccp.ca/printpdf/67>

[2] [http://sccp.ca/sites/default/files/species-habitat/documents/double%20crested%20and%20pelagic%20cormorant%20inventory%20-%20straight%20of%20georgia%20200\\_.pdf](http://sccp.ca/sites/default/files/species-habitat/documents/double%20crested%20and%20pelagic%20cormorant%20inventory%20-%20straight%20of%20georgia%20200_.pdf)

[3] [http://sccp.ca/sites/default/files/species-habitat/documents/historic%20pops%20of%20dc%20cormorants\\_wires%20et%20al.pdf](http://sccp.ca/sites/default/files/species-habitat/documents/historic%20pops%20of%20dc%20cormorants_wires%20et%20al.pdf)

[4] [http://sccp.ca/sites/default/files/species-habitat/documents/status%20assessment%20of%20the%20double%20crested%20cormorant%20in%20western%20na%20%201998-2009\\_.pdf](http://sccp.ca/sites/default/files/species-habitat/documents/status%20assessment%20of%20the%20double%20crested%20cormorant%20in%20western%20na%20%201998-2009_.pdf)

[5] <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/conservation-data-centre/explore-cdc-data/species-and-ecosystems-explorer>

[6] <http://www.geog.ubc.ca/biodiversity/factsheets/>

[7] [http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/documents/bmp/devwithcare2006/develop\\_with\\_care\\_intro.html](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/documents/bmp/devwithcare2006/develop_with_care_intro.html)

[8] <http://www.speciesatrisk.bc.ca/>