

Cormorant Management in New York

For More Information

[Cormorant Press Releases](#) DEC and US FWS

New York Department of Environmental Conservation

- [Chronology of Cormorant Management and Public Involvement](#) A timeline of studies, management actions, and efforts to involve the public
- [Double-Crested Cormorant Predation on Smallmouth Bass and Other Warm Water Fishes of the Eastern Basin of Lake Ontario: Final Report](#) (DEC/USGS Report Feb 99)
- [Pilot Study, Control of Cormorants on Little Galloo - Negative Declaration](#) (9K pdf, requires [Adobe Acrobat](#) reader)
- [Managing Double-crested Cormorants in the Eastern Basin of Lake Ontario, 1999](#) Excerpt from a poster presented at AOU meeting.
- [Draft EIS on Proposed Management of Double-crested Cormorants in US Waters of the Eastern Basin of Lake Ontario, NY](#) (104K pdf, requires [Adobe Acrobat](#) reader)
- [Double-crested Cormorant Management Activities - 1999 Report](#) (38K pdf, requires [Adobe Acrobat](#) reader)
- [Double-crested Cormorant Predation on Smallmouth Bass and Other Fishes of the Eastern Basin of Lake Ontario- Summary of 1999 Studies](#) (DEC/USGS Report March 2000)
- [Lake Ontario Islands Wildlife Management Area - Preliminary Situation Analysis](#) Executive Summary, Cornell HDRU Report 00-2, March 2000 (28K pdf, requires [Adobe Acrobat](#) reader)

US Fish and Wildlife Service

- [US FWS Environmental Assessment - Cormorant Depredation Permits](#) Lake Ontario and Lake Champlain Islands
- [Scoping Report for Environmental Impact Statement on Double-Crested Cormorant Management](#)



Cormorant populations have increased markedly across New York in recent years, likely a result of a cleaner environment and fewer pesticides causing reproductive problems. Large nesting colonies are a sight to behold, but high densities of nesting cormorants are not without problems. In Lake Champlain, destruction of vegetation on nesting islands in Vermont by cormorants threatens populations of common terns, a threatened species. On Oneida Lake, cormorant occupation of islands also threatens survival of the common tern. In addition, thousands of cormorants stopping over during the fall migration have raised concerns about their effect on ecologically and economically important fisheries. And in the eastern basin of Lake Ontario, cormorants have been found to be a significant predator of smallmouth bass, which is a native, economically important species.

The Department's mission includes a responsibility to manage fish and wildlife resources for the benefit of current and future generations. It is not an easy job, and often requires balancing of competing interests to find the course of action that will do the most good with the least harm. The profession of wildlife management has grown in sophistication in considering the human side of the equation, and we also pay attention to social and economic issues and consider people's values and desires in developing our management plans. We are currently involved in a series of cormorant studies and management activities with our counterparts in other states, universities, the federal government, and Canada. Sound science is at the base of our investigations,

**Vermont Fish and Wildlife, NY DEC,
USDA**

- [Environmental Assessment of Alternative Strategies for the management of damage caused by Ring-Billed Gulls and Double-Crested Cormorants on Lake Champlain, Vermont and New York](#)

Environment Canada

- [The Rise of the Double-crested Cormorant on the Great Lakes](#)

**U.S. Geological Survey/Patuxent Wildlife
Research Center**

- [Double-crested Cormorant Phalacrocorax auritus Species Information](#)
- [Double-crested Cormorant Phalacrocorax auritus BBS Trend Map, 1966 - 1996](#)

and requires that we keep an open mind, document our observations, and learn from experience.

This page is intended to provide you with easy access to information about cormorant management.

This page last updated May 3, 2000