

Conservation Committee 2014 Annual Report

Jonathan Cohen and Charles Clarkson, Chair

From June to August, the Conservation Committee worked with Double-crested Cormorant experts within its own ranks and the Society at large to craft a public comment to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) proposal for lethal control of Double-crested cormorants in the Columbia River Estuary. The comments were submitted to Council for approval, after which they were subject to a further round of revisions based on Council comments. They were then approved and submitted to the USACE. The position of the Society, in summary, was against lethal control on the grounds that 1) colonies were in an Important Bird Area, 2) the ecosystem level effects of lethal control had not been adequately studied, 3) nonlethal control had not been adequately evaluated, and 4) the western population of DCCO's has not experienced the rapid growth of the eastern North American population.