

Black-bellied Whistling Duck (Barbour Co.)

Unanimously Accepted 7-0

Committee Member Comments:

CM1: The photographs and description clearly show Black-bellied Whistling Ducks which could not be mistaken for anything else. In addition, there seemed to be a pattern of this species moving into our region at that time of year.

CM2: WV finally seems to be getting in on the BBWD action that has been intense over the last few years in the Eastern US. The photographs and written description are more than sufficient to evaluate this as solid record. The big concern with vagrant waterfowl is always the possibility of an escapee. In this case, the legs were photographed showing no signs of banding. The birds were free-flying. And the timing is consistent with an increasingly common pattern of vagrancy to the Northeast and Midwest. Thus a vote FOR this record is warranted in this case. I was also able to see these birds in person as were many birders over their stay.

CM3: Description and images consistent with this species.

CM4: This is an excellent record documenting these beautiful birds visiting Pleasant Creek WMA. The observer did a great job articulating the description of the birds observed. The photo was outstanding documentation showing the beauty of the plumage. The observer had excellent experience with this particular species prior to the sighting. There have been numerous eBird reports from other birders documenting the Black-bellied Whistling Ducks. This is a very easy record to support for the WV State List.

CM5: I vote to include the Pleasant Creek Wildlife Management Area, Grafton, WV sighting of the Black-bellied Whistling Duck record for the State List. The written description has good detail with research references and includes photographic evidence. The photograph shows mostly chestnut bodied ducks with black belly, gray face, long necks, long red legs, red bill and white wing stripe which confirms the BBWD. The observer did have previous experience and noted two other observers. He was able to differentiate the bird from similar ducks. His report with physical photographic evidence is a good example of a rare bird report. The birds were also well reported on social media. Therefore, this report meets the standard set by the by-laws for inclusion on the official State List.

CM6: Clearly seen and photographed by many including me.

CM7: The photos of the birds show that they are unmistakably Black-bellied Whistling Ducks. The orange bill, gray cheeks with white eye ring, white wing stripe and black belly on an otherwise generally brown body cannot be confused with any other species of duck in North

America. The closest-looking species would be the Fulvous Whistling-Duck but they have a bluish bill and brown face.