

Black-bellied Whistling Duck (Raleigh 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: A very nicely documented record with clear views of the legs recorded in photographs. The photos and description leave no doubt as to the ID. The lack of banding, lack of hallux clipping, and behavior of the birds support a wild provenance as does the timing and an increasing frequency of vagrancy for this species away from its southern breeding areas. All this adds up to an easily acceptable record in my opinion. Good job by the observer for documenting so well. Too bad these birds did not linger long.

CM3: Images and description are consistent with this species.

CM4: This record has excellent documentation for a solo sighting. Photo documentation that was submitted supports the bird description articulated in the written record. The birds in the photo were “unmistakable.” The observer is an experienced WV birder, and is one of the top eBirders in WV. What a unique opportunity of being in the right place at the right time with binos, scope and a camera to capture the moment. Excellent job by Steven Wilson. Congratulations on your lifer! I support this record for the WV State List.

CM5: I vote to include the Raleigh County, WV sighting of the Black-bellied Whistling Duck record for the State List. The written description has good detail with research references and includes both photographic evidence. The photograph shows mostly chestnut bodied duck with black belly, gray face and white wing stripe which confirms the BBWD. The observer did not have previous experience, but recognized the BBWD. 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. Therefore, this report meets the standard set by the by-laws for inclusion on the official State List.

CM6: Nice photos documenting this sighting.

CM7: The photos show two ducks with the unmistakable field identification marks of Black-bellied Whistling Ducks. The gray face, white eye ring, white wing stripe, orangish legs and black belly on a generally brown body are clear marks for this species. The Fulvous Whistling-Duck has a brown face and bluish legs.