

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck

Record Number: 98-13

10 Apr 1998

Classification: A-P

Tomahawk M., Sac Co., IA

*Russell Reisz, *****

to 19 May; P-0593, IBL 68:90, Reisz 1999

DOCUMENTATIONS

Russell Reisz (10 Apr), 2253 Liberty, Missouri Valley 51555
[*9/4/98]

Peter Ernzen (3 May), 407 Court, Ida Grove 51445

Thomas H. Kent (5 May), 211 Richards St., Iowa City 52246

Jim Fuller (5 May), 6 Longview Knoll NE, Iowa City 52240

A. Richard Tetrault (5 May)

Mark Proescholdt (6 May), Box 65, Liscomb 50148

Chris Edwards (19 May), 85 Whitman Ave., North Liberty

PHOTOGRAPH

T. H. Kent P-0593

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 68:90

Records Committee: IBL 69:89

Reisz, R. 1999. Black-bellied Whistling-Duck at Tomhawk Marsh.
Iowa Bird Life 69:105-106.

VOTE: 7 A-P

A-P, Seen well and described by many observers. Vagrancy pattern of this species is established, and there are numerous other records in Midwest states this spring.

A-P, Edwards makes note of behavior indicative of probably wildness. This species appears to continue its spread to the northeast and I suspect we have reached a point where birds are presumed wild unless shown otherwise.

A-P, Fits recent pattern in northern Great Plains.



Black-bellied Whistlin P-0593
Tomahawk M., Sac Co., IA
5 May 1998 T. H. Kent 98-13

< > 71+00 N1BNN-08RU

After identifying it positively as an ibis, I immediately tried calling the Armstrongs at their home with my cell phone, but received no answer. (They were still out birding.) I then called Jim Dinsmore who was home and was able to come out and observe the ibis. I then tried the Armstrongs again and this time they answered. When I told Eugene why I was calling he stated simply "We'll be there in 45 minutes." I then stayed with the ibis until the Armstrongs arrived, happy not only to share my find with fellow birders but grateful also for them telling me about Harrier Marsh. The ibis fed continuously during the hour and a half that I observed the bird. As far as I know, the ibis was not seen after this date.

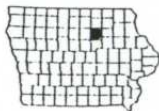
According to Kent and Dinsmore (*Birds in Iowa*, 1996), this is the second sighting of White-faced Ibis in Boone County. There are numerous records of ibis in Iowa in fall but because White-faced and Glossy ibis are virtually identical in basic plumage, most have been identified only as Ibis species. Because I was able to see the bird's red eyes, I was able to identify it as a White-faced Ibis.

15362 250th Avenue, Spirit Lake, IA 51360

WHOOPING CRANES IN BREMER COUNTY

DANA DINNES

On Veteran's Day, 11 November 1998, Larry Brown (an outdoor writer from rural Randall, Iowa) and I were pheasant hunting along a treeless creek line about three miles northeast of Plainfield in Bremer County. It was a crisp, clear morning with a slight breeze. This contrasted markedly from a bit earlier in the week when there were very strong winds--gusts up to 60 mph--from the northwest.



At about 9:00 a.m., while we were headed south along the creek, we heard a strange noise in the air behind us to the north. We turned to see a group of 7 or 8 large birds approaching us. Their call, as Larry described it, sounded like a rusty metal gate swinging in the wind. Since the group of birds were also following the creek line, they were only 40-50 feet directly above us a couple of minutes later. The entire group had similar physical characteristics (as seen from underneath the birds), which were as follows:

- Massive wingspan, a minimum of 6-7 feet
- Long thin necks (over 2 feet long) and long legs that were outstretched in flight
- Small heads
- Bright white plumage with jet black wing tips

We had plenty of time to note these characteristics because their flight was rather slow and labored. They continued to follow the creek, which angled to the south-southeast.

Being an avid outdoorsman and amateur nature photographer, I had a strong inclination that these birds were not common in Iowa. They certainly didn't have the characteristics of egrets, herons, pelicans, or Snow Geese. When I returned home that evening, I looked up the cranes in a bird reference book. The Whooping Crane description and photos were by far the best fit to what we witnessed. I then related this information to Jim Dinsmore at Iowa State University the next day.

It was an incredible experience seeing those magnificent birds fly over us. I just wish I had dismissed the "camera curse" that day. I occasionally bring a camera along on hunting and fishing outings since nearly all of the exciting natural events I've

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seen happen during those activities. However, when I take the camera along such events don't seem to happen and we usually don't get any shots at our quarry nor catch any fish. I would have gladly given up the daily limit of pheasants I bagged that day for one decent photo of that group of whoopers!

P.O. Box 187, Kelley, IA 50134

WHOOPING CRANE IN POLK COUNTY

JERRY KEYS

The fierce, easterly winds that swept across the Midwest on 10 November 1998 brought a multitude of waterfowl into Iowa. While scouting for geese on 11 November, my hunting partner, Chad Loreth of Polk City, located a few thousand Snow Geese feeding in a chisel-plowed corn field we had permission to hunt southwest of Jester Park in Polk County. We quickly made plans for the following morning and invited Randy Cook of Polk City, to join us.



Arriving before dawn, we set out numerous decoys and anxiously awaited the sun's arrival. Just as we had hoped, the Snow Geese left Saylorville Reservoir as the sun rose and headed to our field.

At 9:30 a.m., with Snow Geese circling overhead, Randy saw a bird to the east heading toward our decoy spread. The bird's long neck and long trailing legs led us to assume it was a Sandhill Crane (many had been seen in the area the previous day). As the bird approached, it began to circle and appeared as if it wanted to land. Chad started to imitate a Sandhill Crane, but when we heard the bird calling, it "purred" and "yelped," which did not sound like a Sandhill. When the bird got within 70 yards, we noticed its body and wings were white except for the ends of the primaries which were black. Also, it was bigger than a Sandhill Crane. The bird eventually flew over us at about 15 yards and briefly landed in our decoys. We were then able to positively identify it as a Whooping Crane. The Whooping Crane lifted off and relanded 300 yards away in the chisel-plowed corn field and fed for about 15 minutes. It was very easy to see the white crane against the plowed field. The crane finally took flight again and headed west.

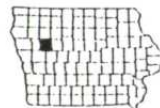
Unfortunately, we did not have a camera with us to take pictures of the Whooping Crane. We did manage to slightly reduce the Snow Goose population, enjoy the great outdoors, and create a once-in-a-lifetime memory.

1106 Westside, Polk City, IA 50226

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK AT TOMAHAWK MARSH

RUSSELL REISZ

At approximately 8 p.m. on 10 April 1998 I was parked on the country road that bisects Tomahawk Marsh in Sac County. While scanning the eastern portion of the marsh I noticed a large duck flying west, low over the water. I put my binoculars on it and was puzzled by the large white flashes I



was seeing all along the wing. At a distance of about 40 meters I saw that the bill was red. As the duck came nearer, I noticed that the feet and legs were also light reddish in color and that the feet extended past the tail. The bird continued to fly toward me and passed over the road just south of me at a distance of 15 meters. As it passed over me I noticed that the chest was tan or brown colored and the belly was black. I knew then that it was a Black-bellied Whistling-Duck. The bird was not relocated until 3 May, but from then until late May, many others saw the bird.

The normal range for this species is from northern South America through Central America and into southeastern Arizona and southern Texas. This year a number of Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were reported in the Midwest, with at least three in Wisconsin and one in Kansas. This is the sixth report for Iowa, the third in spring.

2344 Saturn Circle, Las Cruces, NM 88012

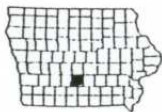
RUFF AT RUNNELLS WILDLIFE AREA

STEPHEN J. DINSMORE

On 23 October 1998, I arrived at the south overlook of the Runnells Wildlife Area at about 7:30 a.m. A wide variety of waterfowl and shorebirds were present, and I was carefully scanning the area and counting birds. At 8:26 a.m., I saw three shorebirds on one of the closer mudflats. The birds were directly north of the overlook and thus were in Marion County. Two of the birds were Dunlin. The third bird was larger and had very distinctive buffy coloration. After noting the large size, buffy underparts, and general shape, I realized I was looking at a Ruff. The bird remained on the near mudflats until approximately 9:00 a.m. The bird was initially preening, but later fed with a small flock of Dunlin and Least Sandpipers. It was slightly larger and plumper than a nearby Lesser Yellowlegs. The shape of the bird reminded me of a long-legged Pectoral Sandpiper while the plumage was reminiscent of a Buff-breasted Sandpiper. The body was very plump, accentuated by the small head and longer neck. I noted the small-headed appearance, similar to that of an Upland Sandpiper. The head and neck were warm buff with a slightly darker crown. The bill was black, of medium length, and very slightly drooped at the tip. The breast and belly were also buffy, fading to a white vent. The upperparts were darker brown and prominently marked with buffy feather edgings. The buffy feather edgings were most obvious on the mantle, scapulars, and secondary coverts. The legs were fairly long (about the same length as the legs of a Lesser Yellowlegs) and bright yellow. At 9:30 a.m., the bird flew to the northwest, eventually landing on a pond closer to Highway 316 and clearly in Warren County. In flight, I noted that the bird had a white rump with a dark central stripe and white underwings. The white color on the rump didn't look U-shaped like it is depicted in some field guides. I also noted a faint white stripe along the base of the secondaries. On the basis of the large size, buffy underparts, and buffy feather edgings I concluded the bird was a juvenile male.

This is the ninth record of a Ruff in Iowa. The records are about evenly split between spring and fall with sightings from March (1), April (1), May (3), August (1), September (2), and October (1). This record is unusual because of the lateness, although October 1998 was unusually mild in Iowa and many other birds lingered later than normal.

612 1/2 West Magnolia St., Fort Collins, CO 80521



COMMON NIGHTHAWK DRAWS A CROWD

THOMAS H. KENT

August 30, 1999, brought a cool front overnight and lots of warblers. At 7:45 a.m. I was in the creek's bottomland north of the flood control dam at Hickory Hill Park in Iowa City. A family of Black-capped Chickadees were calling, and as they moved into a large dead tree ahead of me their calls turned to angry scolding. All of a sudden the tree was full of warblers and other passerines recruited by the chickadees. As I scabbled to identify all of the warblers, I noticed a Common Nighthawk sleeping on one of the dead tree's limbs. The warblers were dive bombing it, and many of the other birds were scolding. I twice did a rough count of the birds in the tree and came up with 40. Warblers included Blue-winged, Golden-winged, Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Blackburnian, Bay-breasted, Black-and-White, and American Redstart. Other species were Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Blue Jay, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Cardinal, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. The frenzy of birds lasted for about 10 minutes. An hour later, the nighthawk was still sleeping, but no other birds were in sight.

I have seen nighthawks in the park before, but I have never known them to upset other birds. Sharp-shinned Hawks frequent the park, but flocks of passerines usually become quiet and disperse when they are around. Perhaps the chickadees mistook the nighthawk for an owl. Has anyone seen 18 species of birds in one tree at one sitting in Iowa before?

211 Richards Street, Iowa City, IA 52246

I.O.U. BUSINESS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Marshalltown, 28 March 1999, 1:12-5:00 p.m.
Mark Proescholdt: Presiding

Present: Jane Clark, Jim Dinsmore, Dan Dorrance, Rita Goranson, Maridel Jackson, Ann Johnson, Curt Nelson, Mark Proescholdt, Jim Scheib, Hank Zaletel

The Board approved allowing Jim Dinsmore to put an insert in *Iowa Bird Life* for selling updates of *Birds in Iowa* and special offers for that book.

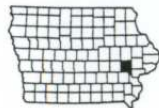
IOU Editor: Jim Dinsmore discussed in detail the duties of Editor of *Iowa Bird Life* and the amount of time involved in that job to give the Board a better idea of what that job involves as they search for a new editor.

Newsletter: Hank Zaletel discussed the IOU Newsletter briefly. He and Linda are in their 15th year as Editors of the newsletter. Hank talked about the Middle School curriculum package, which is completed and available for \$10. One hundred packages have already been sold.

REAP Grant: The Board approved spending \$1,500 on a REAP Grant proposal to help fund 15 trunks of the Middle School projects to each Area Education Agency in Iowa as well as one trunk for the non-game DNR office at Boone.

IOU Display: Hank mentioned that Linda Zaletel had information and proposals for a new IOU display. The Board voted to have Linda purchase this display at around \$270. This is a smaller display that can be shipped by UPS if needed for groups to use.

Upcoming Meetings: The Board approved accepting the proposal to meet in Ottumwa on 9-12 September 1999.



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What species? Black-bellied Whistling-duck Age/Sex? adult/male How many? one

Location? Tomahawk Marsh, Sac County, Iowa

Type of habitat? marsh, wetland

When? date(s) : Friday, 10 April 1998 time: 1958 to 1958

Who? your name and address : Russell Reisz, 2253 Liberty Avenue, Missouri Valley Iowa 51555

others with you : none

others before or after you : none before (to best of my knowledge), but many after

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

At approximately 1955 on Friday the 10th of April I was parked facing south on county road M68 in Sac County at Tomahawk Marsh. While scanning the east half (the road roughly bisects it) of the marsh I noticed a large duck 100 - 120 meters away flying toward me 8 - 10 meters over the water. I put the binoculars on it and was puzzled by the large white flashes I was getting all along the wing. The bird continued to fly toward me and passed over the road just south of me at a distance of 15 meters. At a distance of about 40 meters I noticed the red bill. As the duck came nearer I noticed that the feet and legs were also light reddish and that the feet extended past the tail. The chest was tan or brown colored and the belly was black. The bird flew toward the west and appeared to come down at the west end of the marsh, but I was unable to relocate the bird. Total viewing time was only 20 seconds, but identification was immediate. After searching for the duck for several minutes I returned to my original parking spot and entered the above information in my field notebook (time had already been entered).

Similar species and how eliminated: Fulvous Whistling-duck is the most similar species. This species was eliminated because it has a different bill color and a different leg color than the Black-bellied Whistling-duck. The Fulvous Whistling-duck also lacks the white wing patch and the dark belly of the Black-bellied Whistling-duck. These were all points of identification for the species seen at Tomahawk Marsh.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? no one else was present

If yes explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:

The bird was seen right at or shortly following sunset. The day was clear and the humidity was not a problem for viewing. Since the duck flew from east to west toward me the lighting was coming from the front. I observed the bird for approximately 20 seconds using Bausch & Lomb Legacy 8X40 binoculars. There was no opportunity for use of the spotting scope. Viewing distance varied from about 120 meters to less than 15 meters. The distances were estimated, but I have had some experience in this during field work in New Mexico and Iowa. I also have to judge distances often while hunting.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

I had never seen a live Whistling-duck before. But I was aware of their existence and had looked for them while on a birding trip to southern Arizona and while working on a bird project in southern New Mexico. I have seen a specimen while a student at Iowa State University.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

Ehrlich, P. R., D.S. Dobkin and D. Wheye. 1988. *The Birder's Handbook: a field guide to the natural history of North American birds*. Simon & Shuster. New York.

Kent, T.H., J.J. Dinsmore. 1996. *Birds in Iowa*. Thomson-Shore Inc., Dexter.

Scott, S.L. (ed). 1987. *Field Guide to the Birds of North America*. National Geographic Society. Washington.

How long before field notes made? five (5) minutes this form completed? 40 days

Black-bellied Whistling Duck at Tomahawk Marsh in Sac County.

On the afternoon of May 3, I stopped my vehicle at position number 1. After briefly scanning the marsh, I noticed two medium sized ducks at position number 2. I brought my 10 x 50 binoculars up and immediately noticed a reddish pink bill on the first duck that I observed. My first thought was Black-bellied Whistling Duck.

I mounted my 9 - 30 zoom spotting scope on my car window and for the next eleven minutes (4:07 - 4:18 p.m.), I watched the bird and wrote the following details.

The bird preened itself for most of the eleven minutes that I observed it. It did stretch its neck on a couple occasions and left me with the impression of a very long necked duck. The reddish bill had a blue tip that was almost as prominent as the bill was red. The bird had a gray head and neck, slight eye ring that was whitish in color, but not prominent, there was a wide dark stripe that ran from the top of the head down the back of the neck, the back and chest were a rich rufous similar to a cinnamon teal, but not as red as a cinnamon teal. The belly was black and somewhat obscured by the surrounding vegetation, the white wing patch was present though not as prevalent as I would have thought, this may have been due to the constant preening and the body position of the bird - not a full side view. This feature was observed on subsequent views.

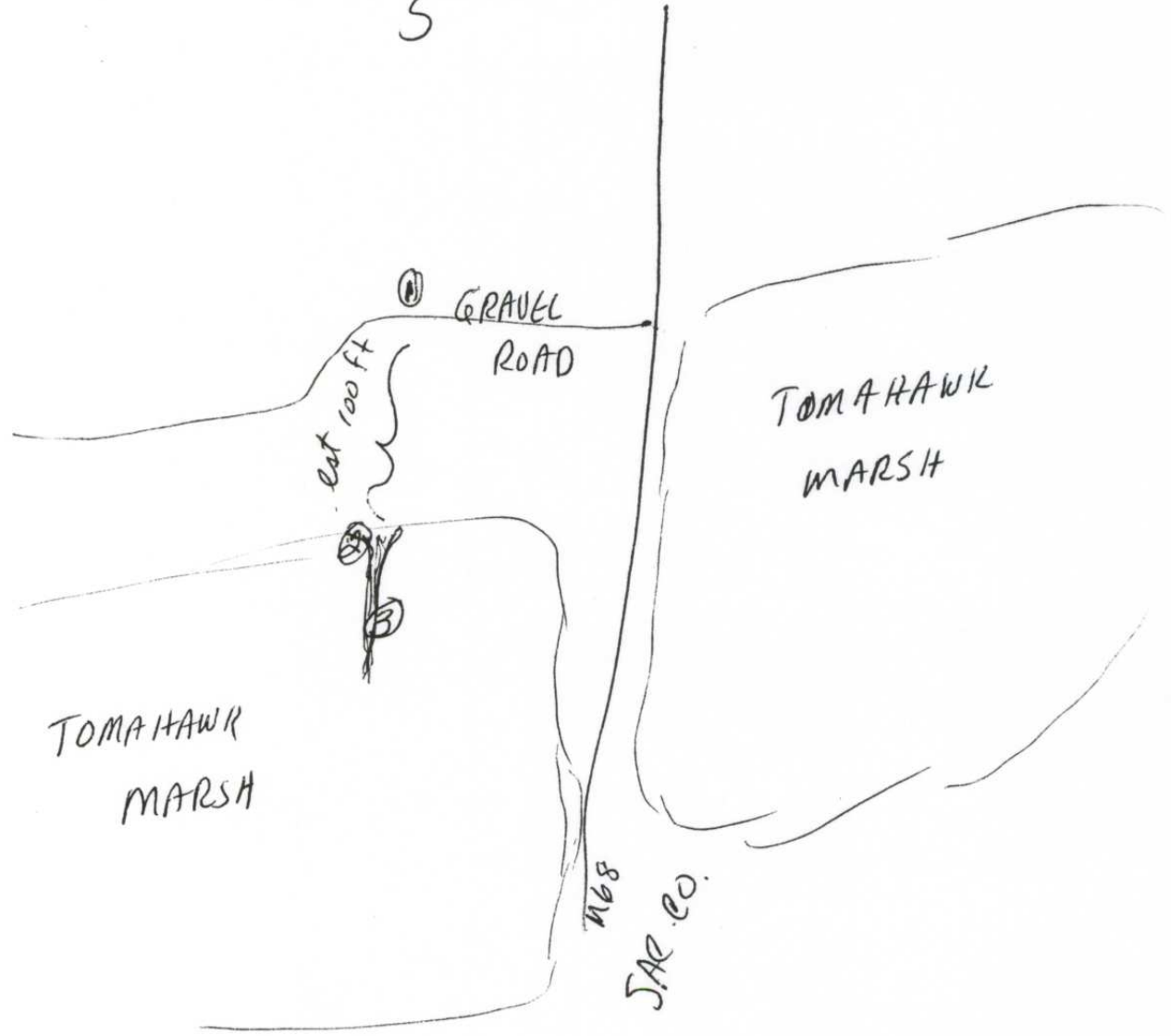
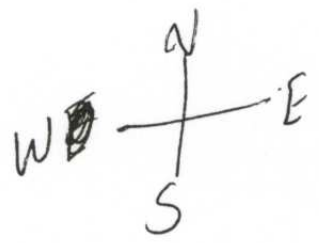
I returned home approximately 1 hour later and contacted several interested individuals and the IOU birdline. I observed the bird at position 3 from county road M68, on numerous occasions through May 22. Many people saw the bird in May. There seems to have been an invasion of Black-bellied Whistling Ducks this spring. I

was able to find records of birds for Oklahoma, Kansas, Tennessee and Wisconsin. The only feature that I was unable to observe were the red feet.

Peter Ernzen
407 Court
Ida Grove, IA 51445

NOT DRAWN TO SCALE

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DOCUMENTATION OF EXTRAORDINARY BIRD SIGHTING

Species: Black-bellied Whistling-Duck; **Number:** 1

Location: Tomahawk Marsh, Sac Co., IA

Date: 5 May 1998; **Time:** 11:55 a.m. to 11:35 a.m.

Name and address: Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246.

Others before/with/after: seen by Pete Ernzen two days before; Jim Fuller and Dick Tetrault with me.

Habitat and circumstances: prairie marsh

Description of bird: This large duck was sitting on the north shore near two Canada Geese; other ducks and coots were nearby. It was upright with long legs and a long neck. I first noticed the pink legs and feet and dark body. I moved over and saw the rest of the bird. The bill was long and bright orange. The head was overall gray with a sharp ring cut-off on the neck. The eye was dark with a uniform thin white eye ring. The breast, sides of neck, back and top of the neck and head were rusty brown. The lower belly and vent were black, sharply cut-off from the belly. The underside of the tail was white and the upper side dark. the greater coverts were dirty-white and the median coverts were tan. We watched the bird from the south and then moved to the northwest side of the marsh and moved up closer and took some photos. The bird preened some but did not swim or fly.

Voice: not heard

Similar species: none

Any one have reservations?: no

Light: sunny; **Distance:** 200 to 40 yards (guess); **Optics:** 10x binoc, zoom scope, 560 mm lens.

Previous experience: have seen many in Texas

References before/after viewing: looked at National Geographic Guide during viewing time.

Time of notes: immediately after viewing period; **Final typing:** 22 hours.

DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD

SPECIES: Black-bellied Whistling Duck (Adult)

LOCATION: Tomahawk Marsh (Sac County)

DATE: 5 May, 1998 (10:55-11:35 AM)

OBSERVER: Jim Fuller, 6 Longview Knoll NE, Iowa City, Iowa, 52240

OTHERS: Seen previously by Pete Ernzen. With me were Tom Kent and Dick Tetrault. Seen by MOB later.

BACKGROUND: On 10 April, The Iowa Birdline received a report from Russell Reisz that a bird of this species was seen at dusk flying over county road M-68 between the two portions of Tomahawk Marsh. Then on 4 May, a Black-bellied Whistling Duck was located at Tomahawk Marsh by Pete Ernzen. We arrived at the marsh at 10:30 AM the next day and located the bird about twenty minutes later on the west side of the marsh standing on a stump along the north shoreline. We watched the bird with the telescope from two vantage points for the next 40 minutes as it stood on the stump and also preened.

DESCRIPTION: In general terms this was a large, long-legged, long-necked, flat-headed and gangly appearing duck. Specifically, the head was flat on top and a gray color, and the chin was a little lighter gray. The eye was dark with a light eye ring. The bill was long and a bright orangish-pink color. The neck was long and its upper one-third was gray, while the lower two-thirds was a chocolate brown, and the cutoff between the two colors was sharp. There was also a dark strip up the back of the neck onto the top of the head. The breast and upper belly were a chocolate brown, while the lower belly was black and the back was brown. The wing coverts were light, otherwise the wing was brown. The upper tail was dark, while the undertail was light. The feet were a pink shade, while the long legs were a lighter pink. The bird did not fly nor raise its wings, and no vocalization was heard.

SIMILAR SPECIES: The only other duck which presents a similar shape is the Fulvous Whistling Dick, but it has gray legs and bill, lacks a prominent eye ring, has no black on the belly nor gray on the head.

OPTICS and VIEWING CONDITIONS: The bird was viewed with a KOWA TSN-4 telescope (20-60X) from distances of 100-150 feet. It was sunny at midday, and the viewing was to the north and to the southeast.

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE: I have seen this species in Texas and Arizona on several previous occasions.

REFERENCES and FIELD NOTES: Field notes were made immediately after getting back in the car, and National Geographic guide was viewed after that. This form was typed on 21 May.

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5 May 98

Black Bellied Whistling Duck

TIME: 11:00 TO 11:45 (approximate)
DATE: 5 May 98
PALCE; Tomahawk Marsh, Sac County, Iowa
WEATHER: Bright Sunshiny Day
VIEW: 200 years more or less. Light from behind. Bird in full view on mud knob.

The first view was a duck with pinkish red legs and orange-red bill. A second look at the bird was that of a long legged, long neck gangly looking duck with a red bill, gray head and upper neck, brown chest and lower neck, black belly, brown back, gray-blue scapulars and long pink-red legs.

A look through the scope and one could make out a light area of the undertail coverts, what appeared to be a white eye ring and a brown teardrop of brown on top of the head. Also noted was a line of brown running down the top of the neck to the back.

A. Richard Tetrault

A. Richard Tetrault

What species? Black-bellied Whistling Duck How many? 1Location? Tomahawk Marsh - Sac CountyType of habitat? Lovely marsh area with higher ground areaWhen? date(s): May 6, 1998 time: 3:50 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.Who? your name and address: Mark Proescholdt, Box 65, Liscomb, Iowa 50148others with you: Beth Proescholdtothers before or after you: Pete Ernzen, Jim Fuller, Tom Kent, many oth

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

We first saw it on the high ground point laying down. Then it stood up and walked around. It had a light reddish bill, flesh-colored legs and webbed feet, big white slashes in its black wings, a rusty neck, and light grayish face and head. It had a black belly and long legs and long neck. It was an unmistakable bird! We saw it preening, then it flew across the road and landed in the corn field, and then it was back on the peninsula point. It was lovely!

Similar species and how eliminated:

No other duck species is like it.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:

cloudy, good viewing; 120 yards, 140 yards estimated,

22x Scope, 8x30 binocs

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

Have ~~th~~ seen them before at King Ranch in Texas.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

None

How long before field notes made? while viewing this form completed? May 27, 1998

DOCUMENTATION FORM

For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

Species: Black-bellied Whistling-Duck**Number:** 1**Location:** Tomahawk Marsh, Sac Co.**Habitat:** Marsh**Date and time:** May 19, 1998, 1:30 p.m. – 1:40 p.m.**Name and address:** Chris Edwards, 85 Whitman Ave., North Liberty, IA 52317**Others with you:** None.**Others before or after you:** Many observers.**Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.**

A large duck with a long neck and long legs. It was approximately twice the size of nearby Blue-winged Teal. The head was light gray with a dark brown stripe running from the crown down the hindneck to the back. The eye was dark with a bold white eye ring. The bill was bright reddish orange with a whitish tip. The back and wing coverts were mostly chestnut brown with some lighter brown and gray feathers visible in the wing coverts. The uppertail was dark brown or black. The breast was rusty brown. The belly was black. The undertail coverts were white with black speckling. The legs and feet were pale pinkish orange. In flight, a bold white wing stripe was visible.

I approached the marsh from the west on foot. I was unaware of the bird's location until it stood up on a small island approximately 30 yards away. The bird was immediately wary and alarmed at my presence, more so than the numerous Blue-winged Teal present, and gave occasional short whistles. After studying the bird, I attempted to move closer and the bird flew a short distance away from me onto the water, giving rapid repeated whistles while in flight. This behavior is suggestive of a wild (not captive) origin.

Similar species eliminated: There are no similar species.**Did anyone disagree or have reservations about the identification?** No.**Viewing conditions:** 30 yards away, full sunlight behind me, viewed with 8 x 40 binoculars and 15x – 45x telescope.**Previous experience with species and similar ones:** I have seen several in Arizona and hundreds in Texas.**References and persons consulted before writing description:** *National Geographic* field guide.**How long before field notes made:** Immediately following observation.**How long before this form completed:** Four days.