

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck

Record Number: 99-06

25 Apr 1999

Classification: A-D

north of Columbus Junction, Louisa Co., IA

Ted Allen fide Bill Ohde and T. Kent

IBL 69:92, 70:144, Kent 1999

DOCUMENTATIONS

Bill Ohde e-mail to Jim Dinsmore

Thomas H. Kent, notes on videotape

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 69:92

Records Committee: IBL 70:144

Kent, T. H. 1999. Black-bellied Whistling-Duck in Louisa County. Iowa Bird Life 69:131-132.

VOTE: 5 A-D, 2 A-P

A-D, This is a curious one--a documentation of a videotape. I don't have any doubts about the identification or wildness of the bird, and the date fits. Since we don't have the date to archive, we don't have a photographic record, leaving it A-D.

A-P, I saw the video tape and it showed the bird clearly. It showed the large white wing patches when the bird flew at the end of the tape. Do we need the video on file in order to classify A-P?

A-D, or does the committee have possession of a tape copy making this A-P?

99-06

Subj: **BBWhistling Duck**
Date: 5/3/99 9:30:00 AM Central Daylight Time
From: oldcoot@iastate.edu (James J Dinsmore)
To: Thkent@aol.com

Tom

Here is the message I got from Bill Ohde on the whistling duck. It has more info than I had remembered when I talked to you on Saturday. I sold another book Saturday morning and had another request for one but couldn't find the person on Sunday. I will send you a check along with list of those who I am sending updates to.

jim

message from Bill Ohde

Hi there! Had a guy bring in a video yesterday of a duck he had taped but could not ID. No doubt about it—a Black-bellied Whistling Duck. He said it's been hanging around for about a month. He saw it yesterday before he brought the tape over. It's using a floodplain wetland that lies right between the Iowa River and highway 70 about 2 miles north of Columbus Junction in Louisa County. Section 2, T75N, R4W. He said it acts wild and spooks along with the other ducks that use the wetland. He shot the video from his house window, and the bird is perched on a log in the water with some BWT swimming around behind him. He had his dad go out and flush it while he continued taping, it spooked like a wild bird and he caught one good extension of the wings on tape before he lost it in the trees. Nick and I will probably try to run up there after school today to get a look at it. The guy who lives there and brought the tape is Ted Allen and his phone # is 319-728-8035.

----- Headers -----

Return-Path: <oldcoot@iastate.edu>
Received: from rly-zb03.mx.aol.com (rly-zb03.mail.aol.com [172.31.41.3]) by air-zb04.mail.aol.com (v59.4) with SMTP; Mon, 03 May 1999 10:30:00 -0400
Received: from isua4.iastate.edu (isua4.iastate.edu [129.186.1.204])
by rly-zb03.mx.aol.com (8.8.8/8.8.5/AOL-4.0.0)
with ESMTP id KAA22541 for <Thkent@aol.com>;
Mon, 3 May 1999 10:29:53 -0400 (EDT)

99-06

DOCUMENTATION OF EXTRAORDINARY BIRD SIGHTING

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

Location: 2 miles north of Columbus Junction, Louisa Co., Iowa

Date: probably early April to 4 May 1999

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

Others before/with/after: The bird was seen by Ted Allen and his brother (not by me). Ted could not remember the date that it was first seen—may have been late March or early April. He videotaped the bird on Sunday, but he was not sure which Sunday. He showed the tape to Bill Ohde and Ohde reported it to Jim Dinsmore. It is likely that the video was made on 25 April for two reasons: (1) Ohde likely reported it to Dinsmore promptly and the report was apparently received the last week of April and (2) The videotape shows some large green leaves. Jim Fuller and I viewed the tape on 5 May. We looked for the bird on 4 May before we had talked to Ted Allen, but Ted reported that his brother had seen it that day in the afternoon (after we had been there). We searched the pond and many nearby water areas for several hours on 5 May without finding the bird.

Habitat and circumstances: A backwater slough adjacent to highway 70 and close to the Iowa River.

Description of bird: The videotape shows a duck with long legs and long neck standing on a small log by the water. It had tan and black underparts, a gray face, dark cap, and orange bill. At the end of the sequence it is seen in flight with a large white wing patch. The legs looked dark to me, but we only viewed the tape once and I did not make notes.

Similar species: Fulvous Whistling-Duck lacks the gray face, orange bill, and white wing patch.

Any one have reservations?: The identification was obvious when we saw the first image of the bird. Although there was considerable camera movement, the image size and brightness were adequate to see the bird reasonably well.

Light: videotape taken from the house under shady or cloudy conditions; **Distance:** 50 yards (guess); **Optics:** video only.

Previous experience: I have seen this species once in Iowa and many times in Texas.

References before/after viewing: checked National Geographic Guide while writing this report.

Time of notes: none; **Final typing:** 2 days after viewing tape and talking to Ted Allen.