

Fulvous Whistling-Duck

Record Number: 81-AJ

FA 1931

Classification: NA

Spirit Lake--Estherville area, Dickinson Co., IA

Mr. Wendell, F. P. Hopkins

Roberts 1932, DuMont 1933

REFERENCES

Roberts, F.L. 1932. Two Iowa duck records. Wilson Bull. 44:180.

DuMont 1933.

Musgrove and Musgrove 1977

VOTE (1981): 1-III, 4-IV, 2-V

V, entirely second hand report.

IV, Details are skimpy, supported somewhat by Marnette's report in DuMont 1934.

V, details very poor.

IV, Seems little likelihood of an escape in 1931.

IV, Second hand account of a specimen. Taken by a third party. Specimen not saved. Actual description is sketchy. The observer of the specimen (Hopkins) 'not an ornithologist'.

III, Similar case to Magnificent Frigatebird seen by Coale (#3), except that bird was satisfactorially described, at least to Roberts' satisfaction, thus being III rather than IV. Some of the description still exists (in Roberts' notes).

Fulvous Whistling Duck

Roberts, F. L. R. 1932. Two Iowa duck records. *Wilson Bulletin* 44:180

Two Iowa Duck Records.—On November 15, 1928, Dr. E. M. MacEwen shot a duck near Lone Tree, Iowa, that was identified as a cross between a Mallard and a Pintail. The duck was sent to W. T. Hornaday, who verified the identification. It is now on display at the University of Iowa.

In the fall of 1931 a duck was shot by a Mr. Wendell of Estherville, Iowa, which was probably a Fulvous Tree Duck (*Dendrocygna fulva*). The duck was taken to F. P. Hopkins of Spirit Lake. While Mr. Hopkins is not an ornithologist he is a very careful amateur ichthyologist and understands the importance of care in identifying unusual species. He said that the duck was shot from a tree. Its legs were about twice as long as those of a teal and blue-black in color. Its bill was short, dark and somewhat broad. The rest of the description also fitted the Fulvous Tree Duck exactly. Unfortunately the duck was not saved. I believe that this bird should be included in future state lists as a hypothetical record.—F. L. R. ROBERTS, *Iowa City, Iowa.*

Family Anatidae

Dendrocygna bicolor helva Wetmore and Peters. Fulvous Tree Duck

F. L. R. Roberts recorded (*Wilson Bull.*, XLIV, p. 180) that in the fall of 1931 a duck was shot by a Mr. Wendell of Estherville, which was probably this species. It was taken to F. P. Hopkins of Spirit Lake, who stated that it was shot from a tree; its legs were about twice as long as those of a teal, and blue-black in color; its bill was short, dark, and somewhat broad. The rest of the description fitted this species. Unfortunately it was not preserved.

Paul L. Errington reported that Frank Marnette had told him of watching a Fulvous Tree Duck on Spirit Lake, from a distance of only a few feet. Presumably this was about the same time as the occurrence mentioned above, although no date was noted.

Roberts (1932) recorded a field identification of two seen in Lincoln County, Minnesota, by W. J. Breckenridge on May 24, 1929.

DuMont 1938
p 154-155

Musgrove, J. W. and Musgrove, M. R. 1977. *Waterfowl in Iowa* 5th ed. State Conservation Commission, Des Moines. pp 111-112

FULVOUS WHISTLING DUCK, *Dendrocygna bicolor helva* WETMORE AND PETERS. (Formerly fulvous tree duck.) Recorded by Dr. F. L. R.

Roberts in *The Wilson Bulletin* (XLIV, page 180). This was a bird taken in the fall of 1931 in Iowa, possibly near Spirit Lake in Dickinson County; it was not preserved but was examined by F. P. Hopkins, whose description fitted the fulvous whistling duck. Paul Errington reported that at about the same time Frank Marnette of Spirit Lake observed one at a short distance. There are two sight records by W. J. Breckenridge on May 24, 1929, in Lincoln County, Minnesota. More recently, G. J. Horak and F. W. Kaufman report observation of a fulvous whistling duck in Palo Alto County in June, 1963. There is little doubt that this bird has occurred in Iowa, but collection records and specimens are lacking.