



102-01-1993

Black-bellied Whistling Duck in Penna.
(*Dendrocygna autumnalis*)
Indiana County

DATE: 6/8/93
TIME: 8 A.M.
LOCATION: 1/2 MILE NORTH OF SALTSBURG, INDIANA CO.,
PA. ON SR 3002
CONDITIONS: OVERCAST, WARM, MUGGY - 70°F, FOLLOWING
HEAVY STORMS THE NIGHT BEFORE
EQUIPMENT: SWIFT AUDUBON 8.5 X, 44 BINOCULARS

While having breakfast at our home overlooking our farm, my husband, David, saw what he at first thought was a flock of pigeons fly into our barnyard where our farm ducks and geese were feeding. Once they landed, he knew they weren't pigeons and called me.

Realizing I had left my binoculars down at the farmhouse I drove down. From the farmhouse I could see from a distance of 50-100 feet 11 wild ducks milling about on the ground approximately 50 feet from our 1/4 acre pond, which has trees around.

-2- 102-01-1993

THEIR BRIGHT ORANGE-RED BILLS FIRST CAUGHT MY EYE. THERE WAS A CONTINUAL LINE OF "ALMOST RUFOUS" COLOR FROM THE CROWN, NAPE & LOWER NECK. THE UPPER CHEST AND BACK WERE ALSO A RICH, WARM BROWN.

A MOST INTERESTING LOOK CAME FROM THE DARK EYE SURROUNDED BY A WHITE EYE RING AGAINST THE GREY BACKGROUND OF THE FACE AND THROAT. IT SEEMED ALMOST A QUIZZICAL LOOK.

THE WING SHOWED A WHITE AREA ON THE COVERTS AND BASES OF THE PRIMARIES, WHILE THE LEADING EDGE APPEARED LIGHT BROWN FADING TO GREY. THE OUTER EDGE OF THE PRIMARIES SEEMED TO RIM THE LOWER EDGE OF THE FOLDED WING IN BLACK. THE LOWER BREAST, BELLY, RUMP AND TAIL WERE ALSO BLACK.

THE BIRDS STOOD MORE UPRIGHT THAN MOST DUCKS AND HAD LONG, PINKISH-ORANGE LEGS AND FEET.

I IDENTIFIED THESE DUCKS AS BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING DUCKS (*DENDROCYGNA AUTUMNALIS*).

MY VIEWING TIME WAS ABOUT 15-20 MINUTES. I DIDN'T SEE THEM IN FLIGHT AS THEY FLEW OFF DURING THE TIME I WAS TRYING TO GET CLOSER. DAVID, WHO WAS

102-01-1993

-3-

WATCHING FROM THE HILL SAID THEY FLEW IN THE DIRECTION OF THE KISKIMINETAS RIVER AT SALTSBURG.

ABOUT 4:30 P.M. NEXT DAY, 6/9/93, A PHONE CALL FROM MARGARET HIGBEE REVEALED THE SAME FLOCK HAD BEEN SPOTTED AT BUSH RECREATION AREA OF THE LOYALHANNA DAM, WHICH IS LOCATED APPROXIMATELY 5 MILES SOUTH OF SALTSBURG ON ROUTE 981 IN WESTMORELAND COUNTY. TURN RIGHT FROM ROUTE 981 ONTO BUSH ROAD AND FOLLOW IT ABOUT 2 MILES TO THE PICNIC AND CAMPING AREA.

MY HUSBAND AND I AGAIN VIEWED THE DUCKS AT BUSH RECREATION AREA FOR ABOUT 20 MINUTES FROM A RANGE OF 50-75 FEET. WE NOTED THEY WERE FEEDING ON THE GRASSY SHORELINE AND APPEARED TO BE EATING SOME GRAVEL.

I RETURNED TO THE SAME AREA ABOUT 6:15 P.M. THAT EVENING WITH MY DAUGHTER, ANNETTE, WHO WAS ABLE TO FILM THE DUCKS. THEY SEEMED QUITE FEARLESS - WE AND OTHERS WERE ABLE TO APPROACH WITHIN 30-40 FEET OF THEM. AGAIN, THEY REMAINED ON THE GROUND THE ENTIRE TIME WE VIEWED THEM.

ON THE MORNING OF 6/10/93 MARGARET HIGBEE WAS ABLE TO LOCATE ONLY 3 OF THE DUCKS REMAINING AT BUSH RECREATION AREA.

102-01-1993

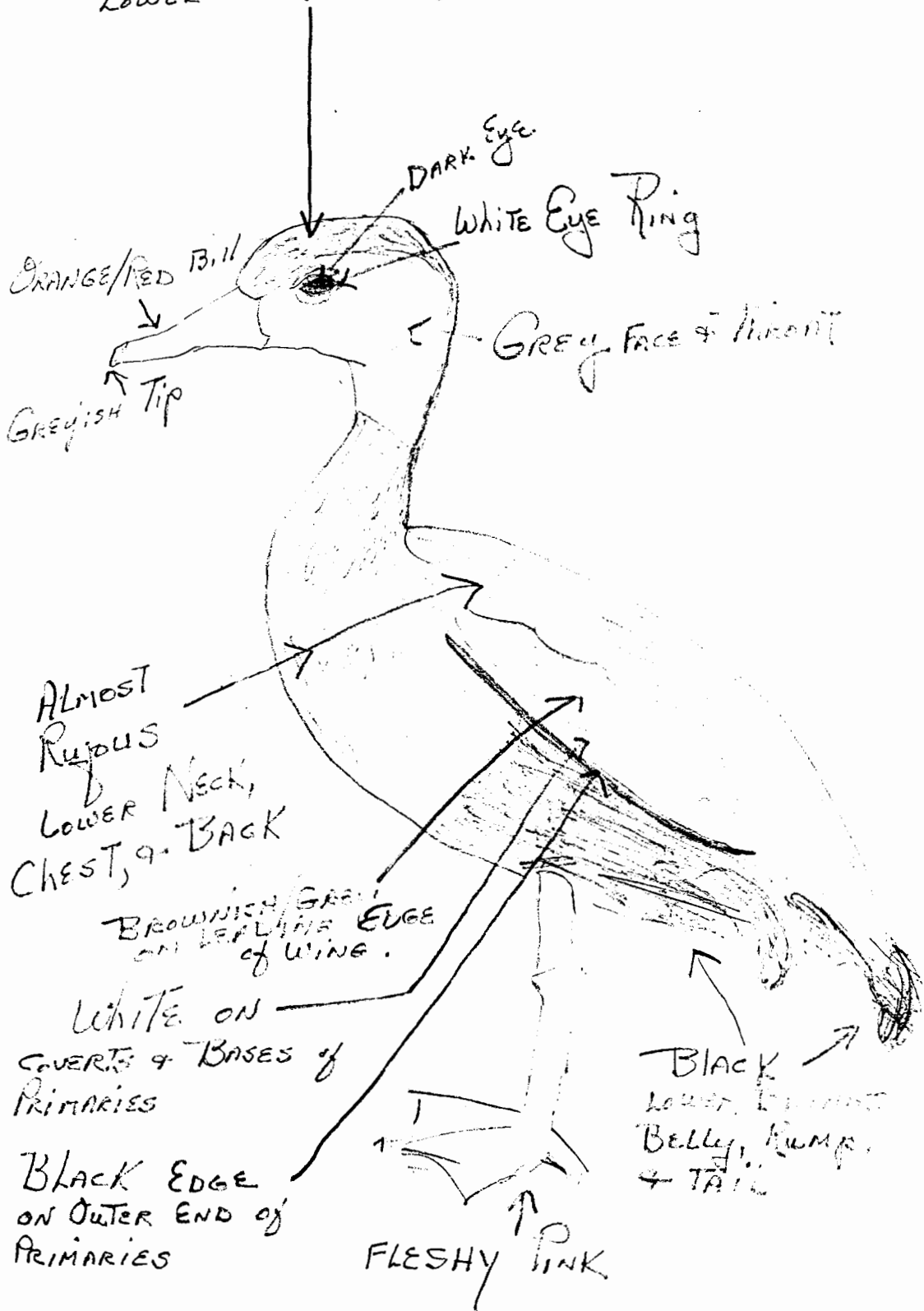
-4-

I OBSERVED THE SAME 3 FROM 1 P.M TO 2:15 P.M.
THAT AFTERNOON. THEY REMAINED ON THE SHORELINE.

MARY ANN DUNMIRE.
R.D. #1, BOX 720 B
SALTSBURG, PA 15681

102-01-1993

CONTINUAL LINE of Rufous from Crown, Nape,
LOWER NECK



Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 2 of 2

Species: Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*)

Date of Sighting: 8 June 1993 to 22 June 1993

Location: SALTSBURG

County: INDIANA

Observer(s): Mary Ann Dunmire

Rick Wiltraut (P)

Date of Submission: 1993

Submitted by: Mary Ann Dunmire; Rick Wiltraut

Written Description: YES Photo: YES Specimen: NO

Recording: NONE

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V			Abstain
					A	B	C	
F. Haas	X							
N. Pulcinella	X							
E. Kwater	X							
R. Ickes	X							
G. McWilliams	X							
P. Schwalbe	X							
J. Skinner	X							
TOTALS	7							
DECISION	X							

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

J. Chao

Date:

5-6-94

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (Dendrocygna autumnalis)**

Date of Sighting: **8 June 1993 to 22 June 1993**

Location: **SALTSBURG**

County: **INDIANA**

Observer(s): **Mary Ann Dunmire**

Rick Wiltraut (P)

Date of Submission: **1993**

Submitted by: **Mary Ann Dunmire**

Written Description: **YES** Photo: **YES** Specimen: **NO**

Recording: **NONE**

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V			Abstain
					A	B	C	
F. Haas	X							
N. Pulcinella	X							
E. Kwater	X							
R. Ickes					X			
G. McWilliams	X							
P. Schwalbe	X							
J. Skinner					X			
TOTALS	5				2			
DECISION								

Comments:

Send for second round.

Signature (Secretary):

F. Haas

Date:

2-23-94