







## **Black-bellied Whistling Duck**

(NumberIndividuals) 2

(AgePlumage) adult

(DateTime) August 7, 2010 5:30 - 6 PM

(Location) Mohnton

(ExactSite) along the Wyomissing creek at S. Church Rd

(ObserverName) Katrina Knight

(ObserverAddress) PO Box 12823, Reading, PA 19612

(ObserverEmail) kknight@fastmail.fm

(ObserverPhone) 610 372-3671

(OtherObservers) Linda Frederick

(Habitat) small creek with yards and trees on one side and a grassy area on the other - people in the houses put out food for the ducks

(Distance) approx. 10 - 40 feet

(ViewConditions) sunny

Optical Equipment Used

(Description) The shape and posture of these two ducks showed that they were members of the whistling-duck family. Compared to the wild Mallards these two were longer-legged, more upright in posture, and a bit larger. They were smaller than the large white domestic Mallards that were also present. Head pointed at the back, beige-gray face and upper neck with dark eyes and prominent white eye-rings, large bright reddish-pink bill with grayish tip, darker stripe running from the bill, over the crown to the back of the head and down the neck (brown at bill darkening to black at the point of the head and down the neck) Lower neck, breast and back medium brown with tints of reddish-orange. Belly and tail black. Wings largely white with black trailing edges. Relatively long bright pink legs (not as red as the bill). Small versions of three of the pictures I took can be found here.

<http://my.opera.com/kknight/albums/show.dml?id=59642?&abc=&page=2&skip=20&show=&perscreen=20>

(Behavior) When I first arrived, one of the whistling-ducks was standing on the shore just below the bridge over the creek where I was standing. It soon flew out into the creek where it swam and walked around a bit, appearing to do some feeding, then eventually moved to and up the creek bank to where the second one was sitting under a tree. The first duck touched its bill to the second duck's head then settled down under the same tree. Both ducks stayed in the same positions from then until I left.

(Vocalizations) none

(Separation) Narrowed down to some species of whistling-duck by size, shape and posture. Their black bellies, reddish bills and pink legs eliminated Fulvous Whistling Duck.

(Discussion) It should be noted that these birds have been appearing up and down the east coast this summer, including Maine, New Jersey, Virginia and other locations in Pennsylvania.

(Previous experience with this and/or similar species) I've seen many of them in Florida as well as the earlier record in Berks County a few years ago.

Are you positive of your identification ? Yes.

References Consulted: none

Date of this Report: August 10, 2010

## Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

### Voting Tabulation – Round One

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

Date of Sighting: 3 August 2010 to 8 August 2010

County : BERKS

Location : MOHNTON

Observer(s): Katrina Knight, Linda Frederick

Date of Submission: 2010

Submitted by: Katrina Knight

Written Description: Yes

Photo: Yes

Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
D. DeReamus	X							
A. Guarente	X							
T. Johnson	X							
B. Coulter	X							
C. Rutt	X							
J. Heller	X							
G. Malosh	X							
TOTALS	7							
DECISION	X							

Comments: 7/0

Signature (Secretary)      Nick Pulcinella

Date: 2/9/11