

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2016-10-05 22:22:14
Observer's Name	Frank Dickman
E-mail	at12midngt@aol.com
Phone	4846953887
Observer's Address	5333 Scully Court New Tripoli PA 18066 United States
Names of additional observers	Bill Etter
Species (Common Name)	Black-bellied Whistling Duck
Species (Scientific Name)	<i>Dendrocygna autumnalis</i>
Number of individuals	1
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	Adult
Observation Date and Time	10-05-2016 11:40 AM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S31904521
County	Northampton
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Walnutport
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Lehigh Canal
Habitat	Canal and path along Lehigh river
Distance to bird	30 yards
Viewing conditions	Clear day
Optical equipment used	Opticron MM3 spotting scope
Description	Small to medium sized duck, smaller than surrounding Mallards. Orange beak, pink legs and feet. Gray head with brown crown. Brown chest and back with black, gray and white wings.No observable marks to indicate an escaped bird.
Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)	Bird was sleeping on a log for first 30 minutes then began foraging with surrounding Mallard flock. Bird dove repeatedly.

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

Size and coloration were distinctive to this species. Compared with app pics of said species. Identical.

Discussion – anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:

Full video at <https://flic.kr/p/LY6pFT>

Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)

Yes. Size, coloration and behavior all point to suggested species.

During

Audubon Birds apl

After

Same

Supporting evidence (check all that apply)

Photograph

Upload images, audio, video or drawings



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PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2016-10-06 18:37:15
Observer's Name	Pam Pryor
E-mail	pjpryor@nni.net
Phone	484-695-1234
Observer's Address	736 Main St Slatington Pa 18080 United States
Names of additional observers	Bryon Pryor
Species (Common Name)	Black bellied whistling duck
Species (Scientific Name)	<i>Dendrocygna autumnalis</i>
Number of individuals	2
Observation Date and Time	10-03-2016 9:30 AM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	http://ebird.org/ebird/pa/MyEBird? cmd=list&rtype=loc&r=L494993&time=life&spp=bbwduc
County	Northampton
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Walnutport
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Lehigh canal towpath
Habitat	Lehigh canal and canal towpath
Distance to bird	Stayed back about 10-15 feet
Viewing conditions	Clear morning
Optical equipment used	Iphone
Description	Standard. Pink orange bill, grey Head, chestnut brown chest, black belly
Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)	Feeding & swimming with a group of Mallards. Both days we saw it the duck stands on the bank of the canal with its neck elongated & when you approach it it flies into the water with the group of mallards

Discussion – anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:

We walk the canal for years now. We like to watch the birds that are there however we are not professional birdwatchers. On October 3 when walking down the towpath I observed a bird in the distance with an elongated neck standing on the bank of the canal. As we approached closer it flew into the water with the Mallard ducks that were swimming and we saw it was another species of duck. I took photos and noted it's coloring so that when I got home I could look up the variety. When we got home we were shocked to see that it was a rare species for this area and it was very exciting. I posted about the duck on my Facebook because we were excited and my friends told me I needed to report it. We just want the bird to be safe. Apparently since word got out a lot of people are going to see the duck now.

Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)

Yes absolutely

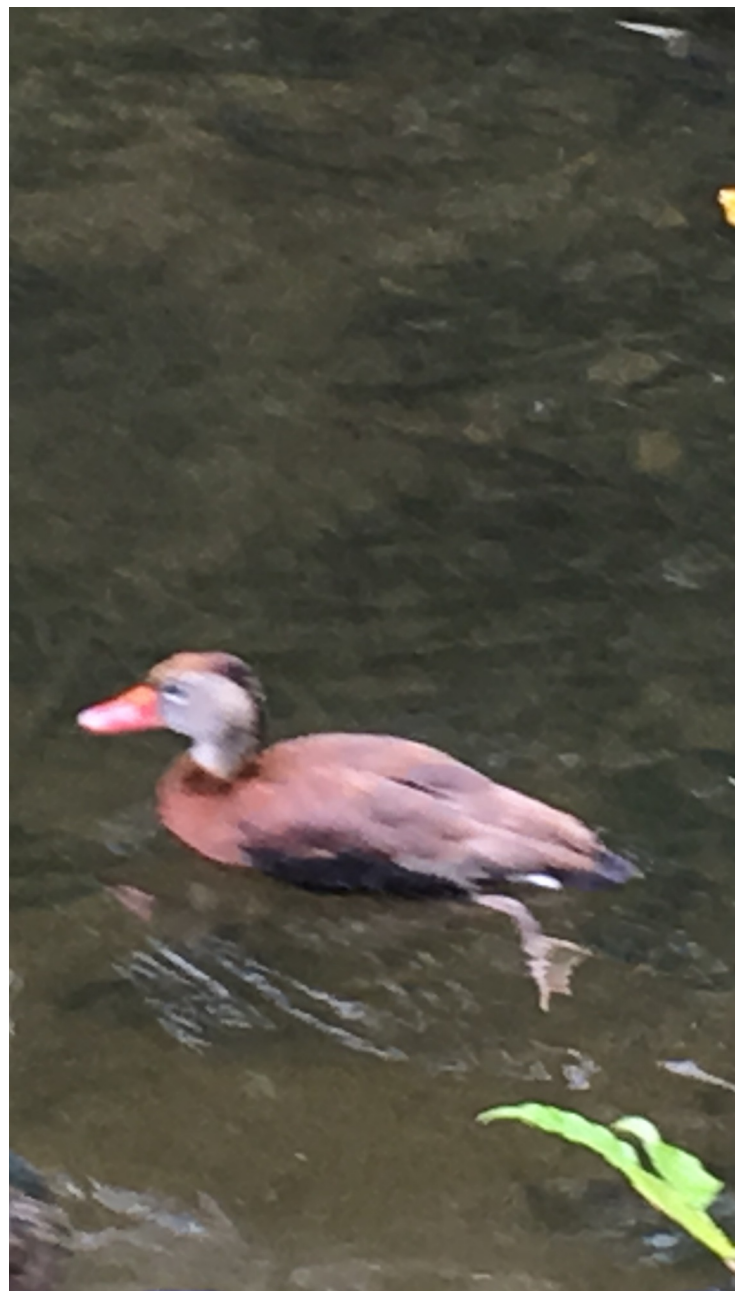
Supporting evidence (check all that apply)

Photograph

Upload images, audio, video or drawings



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Today

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Edit



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PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2016-11-26 05:14:48
Observer's Name	Michael David
E-mail	michaeldavid@gmail.com
Phone	4123906773
Observer's Address	7420 Ben Hur St Pittsburgh PA 15208 United States
Names of additional observers	Rick Wiltraut
Species (Common Name)	Black-bellied Whistling-Duck
Species (Scientific Name)	<i>Dendrocygna autumnalis</i>
Number of individuals	1
Observation Date and Time	10-4-2016 5:50 PM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S31895081
County	Northampton
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Walnutport
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	D & L Trail
GPS coordinates of sighting	40.755527, -75.602505
Habitat	Shallow standing water in old canal.
Distance to bird	20 m
Viewing conditions	Clear
Optical equipment used	Zeiss Victory 10x42 binoculars
Description	Fairly large duck, slightly smaller than Mallard. Bold distinctive markings: solid reddish brown back, chest, and upper belly; black lower belly with sharp vertical dividing line from upper belly; pale stripe along edge of folded wing; gray head with brown stripe across crown from base of bill down nape to upper back; white eye ring; black eye; bright pink legs, feet, and bill; pale blue nail on bill.
Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)	Associating with flock of Mallards. Seen swimming in canal, resting/preening along edge, feeding along bank, making short flight back to water.

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

Nothing is very similar. Fulvous Whistling-Duck is closest and has different bill, face, and body coloring (and is even less expected in PA).

Discussion – anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:

Provenance is often a question with out of range waterfowl. This species has a known tendency for vagrancy north of its typical range from Spring to Fall, but can also be seen in captive collections.

This bird had no physical signs of captive origin - the legs were clearly seen to have no bands and the back toes intact, and the bird was able to fly.

The bird did allow close approach by humans, and fed with Mallards on cracked corn that was put out by a local resident. The species, though, is generally tolerant of humans and human-altered habitats, and this individual's behavior did not strike me as out of line with a wild bird based on personal observations in Florida and Texas.

Interestingly, a second Black-bellied Whistling Duck was present in Lancaster County PA for some of the same time.

My opinion is that though the occurrence and behavior of an escaped bird and wild bird could be similar, given the precedent of this species being seen in PA and surrounding states, including multiple sightings this same year, it would be overly conservative to reject this bird due to uncertain origin.

Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)

Yes, close observation and photos of a distinctive species

After

Sibley Guide app

Supporting evidence (check all that apply)

Photograph

Upload images, audio, video or drawings



[Black-bellied Whistling Duck, Northampton, PA 2.JPG](#)



[Black-bellied Whistling Duck, Northampton, PA 3.JPG](#)



[Black-bellied Whistling Duck, Northampton, PA.JPG](#)