

## PA Rare Bird Report

<b>Submission Date</b>	2019-05-25 17:13:25
<b>Observer's Name</b>	Jonathan Heller
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<b>Phone</b>	7179406067
<b>Observer's Address</b>	720 Aspen Ln PA 17042 United States
<b>Species (Common Name)</b>	Black-bellied Whistling Duck
<b>Species (Scientific Name)</b>	<i>Dendrocygna autumnalis</i>
<b>Number of individuals</b>	8
<b>Observation Date and Time</b>	05-20-2019 5:40 PM
<b>Did you submit this sighting to eBird?</b>	Yes
<b>Link to eBird checklist</b>	<a href="https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S56553396">https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S56553396</a>
<b>County</b>	Lebanon
<b>Location (City, Borough, Township)</b>	Newmanstown
<b>Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)</b>	Fort Zellers Road
<b>GPS coordinates of sighting</b>	40.3457,-76.2235
<b>Habitat</b>	Small pond
<b>Viewing conditions</b>	Excellent
<b>Optical equipment used</b>	Swarovski binoculars and scope
<b>Description</b>	Unmistakable. Photos leave no doubt as to identification. I have not uploaded photos, but they should be on the Ebird checklist. Please let me know if you need more information or need me to try to upload photos.
<b>Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)</b>	Initially I saw the birds crouched down in the grass along the pond which was actually very close to the road. Eventually they came out of the tall grass and walked out to the short grass where I was able to get the best photos.
<b>Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)</b>	No similar species to eliminate.

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

The birds were very confiding, but most BB Whistling Ducks I have seen in PA as well as TX and FL have been fairly tame. The owner of the property (Scott) told me he first saw the flock fly in about 4 days prior. He immediately knew what they were since he used to be a waterfowl aficionado and actually had a pair of BB Whistling ducks for a time about 10 years ago. He said that these were clearly wild birds and does not know of anyone owning this species in the area. A strange coincidence, however, I believe they are likely wild birds given the larger flock size and the large influx of birds at this same time (at least two more large flocks in PA, some in NJ and some as far north as Nova Scotia). My understanding is that some of these other birds (like the ones in nearby Berks county) are also fairly confiding and even being fed (like many I have seen in TX).

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

100%

**Supporting evidence (check all that apply)**

Photograph

**Click to edit**

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