

General Field Notes

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Green Heron Fishing with Mayflies

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At 1815 EDT on 16 August 1975 at Lake Murray near Chapin, S.C., I saw a Green Heron standing on a rock at the edge of the water about 120 feet from where I stood. Behind the heron and 2 yards back from the water, a swarm of mayflies was circling. While I watched through binoculars, the bird walked to the insects, caught one, and, holding it crosswise in its beak, returned to the water where it dropped the mayfly in the shallows. A small fish rose to the fly and was caught by the heron. Four of us watched as the bird repeated the process. After catching a third mayfly, the bird went to a different perch by the water and was hidden from our view by a large boulder. The heron flew away a few moments later.

[NOTE: At least three other instances of what appears to be "insight learning" in this species are known. These also involve the baiting of fishes. In one case (Wilson Bull. 70:280-281) the heron used pieces of bread; in the second (National Geographic 146:143-147), fish-food pellets were used; and in the third (Am. Birds 29:652-654), the lure was a feather.—JRH]

Specimen Record of a Black-bellied Whistling-Duck from Carteret County, N.C.

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While reorganizing portions of the bird collection at the North Carolina State Museum, we uncovered a previously unreported specimen of a Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) collected in North Carolina. The bird (NCSM 2910) was shot by Eugene Pond in Cove Sound, near Stacy, Carteret County, on 15 February 1968. Mr. Pond, who has secured and reported other interesting first records from this region, recalls collecting the bird. The bird is in fresh adult plumage and is of the Northern subspecies, *D. a. autumnalis* (= *D. a. fulgens* in 1957 edition of A.O.U. Checklist). The belly is dark brown, suggesting a bird of south Texas/northeast Mexico origins (Condor 49:189-195). Unfortunately, its sex was not determined at the time the skin was prepared, and the species, unlike most waterfowl, does not have sexually dimorphic plumage.

This duck apparently does not regularly wander outside its normal range as does the Fulvous Whistling-Duck (*D. bicolor*). In the United States, the breeding range is