

in 1981 the same bird that overwintered in 1982? And if so, was this bird a male? The importance here is that males overwintering on their breeding grounds have the opportunity to establish breeding territories in optimal habitats before other males arrive from their wintering areas. Also, an overwintering bird would not have to expend energy to make the long migration to and from Central and South America as do most other Green-backed Herons. On the other hand, such a bird is taking the chance that its food source may become impossible to reach if ice forms on the pond. Unfortunately, these questions cannot be answered with the information at hand. When similar occurrences of birds overwintering out of their range are detected in the future, it would be interesting to catch, age, sex, and color band the bird so as to answer some of these questions.

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A 1977 Record of a Black-bellied Whistling-Duck from Lee County, S.C., Comes to Light

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A report on a Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) collected in North Carolina in 1968 (Chat 45:41-42) reminded me of a Black-bellied Whistling-Duck wing from South Carolina that I examined several years ago. Since 1961 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has conducted an annual nationwide survey, in which selected waterfowl hunters are asked to send in one wing from each duck they shoot during a season. From such wings, biologists are able to estimate the species, age, and sex compositions of the harvest. In early 1977 I examined the wing of a Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, apparently an adult, which was shot near Manville, Lee County, S.C., on 20 January 1977 by R.E. Kuhne of Columbia. The sex of the bird could not be determined with certainty from the wing. The habitat was a small farm pond surrounded by gums. The bird was alone, but Dr. Kuhne also found Wood Ducks (*Aix sponsa*) on the pond.

The wing was retained for the Service's collection as an oddity. As is the case with most such extralimital records of waterfowl, it was assumed to have escaped from captivity, and no thought was given to reporting it in ornithological circles until I saw the article on the North Carolina bird. As a result, I prepared this report and forwarded the wing to the Charleston Museum for inclusion in the state collection. William Post informs me that this is the first specimen record of this species for South Carolina (CM 1983.155), and that the species will now be added to the state list in Provisional II category (specimen, but possibly of an escaped captive).