

Meadowlark. The latter two, especially, may have benefitted from the unmowed field. On the day we saw the young Bobolink, we also saw three newly-fledged Meadowlarks, and heard constant Bobwhite calls coming from the grass.

This observation apparently represents a major extension of the Bobolink's breeding range, which previously extended to northwest North Carolina and adjacent Johnson County, TN (Chat 44:11). Individual breeding records were reported for Wilkes County, NC, in 1959 and 1960 (Chat 23:67-68; Chat 24:105) and probable breeding was noted in Ashe County, NC, in 1980 (Chat 44:11). There are numerous reports of individual Bobolinks in northwest NC and northeast TN, which indicate the probability of a small but regular breeding population (David Lee, pers. Comm.). This Transylvania County record, however, is more than 160 km south west of these locations.

If more farmers could be persuaded to postpone haying until grassland birds have finished their nesting cycles, many species might benefit. Even when this is not possible, other small adjustments can help. A tape recording we obtained from Quail Unlimited (RR1, Stendal, IN 47585; \$10) makes this point very effectively, and does it from the farmer's point of view. It suggests, for instance, that a change in the height of mowing to leave a 6-inch stubble will allow a farmer to harvest a crop on time without destroying most nests. Many Carolina farmers might make these adjustments if they understood their importance. Organizations like Quail Unlimited or the N. C. Wildlife Resources Commission can provide this information.

The authors wish to thank Lynn Moseley and David Lee for their help in the preparation of this manuscript.

Black-bellied Whistling Ducks Observed in Colleton County, South Carolina

DEAN HARRIGAL
Rt. 1, Box 25
Green Pond, SC 29446

PETE LAURIE & CINDY FLOYD
750 Copperhead Trail
Johns Island, SC 29455

On 30 July 1994, Harrigal, Laurie and Floyd observed two Black-bellied Whistling Ducks (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) at the Donnelley Wildlife Management Area near Green Pond, Colleton Co., South Carolina. The birds were preening and feeding in a waterfowl impoundment where the water level had been lowered for management purposes.

The birds were seen in excellent early morning light from a distance of 50 m for 15 minutes. The birds were photographed by Laurie (Fig. 1). The red-orange bill, red legs, distinct white eye ring, cinnamon back, black belly and large white wing patches were unmistakable. Harrigal had observed the birds in the same location on two separate occasions on the previous day.



Figure 1. Black-bellied Whistling Ducks at Donnelley Wildlife Management Area in Colleton County, SC. Photo by Pete Laurie.

This appears to be the second documented record of Black-bellied Whistling Ducks in South Carolina (Martin 1984). There is always doubt about the origins of vagrant waterfowl especially a colorful tropical species like this Whistling Duck but the recent plethora of extralimital records from as far away as Quebec, Ontario and Iowa (Kaufman 1994) suggest that the South Carolina birds were genuine wandering wild birds. The presence of a tropical depression that several weeks earlier had moved into the Southeast from the Gulf of Mexico and stalled in Georgia may have contributed to these birds being beyond their normal range and reinforced the view of the wild origin of these birds.

LITERATURE CITED

- Kaufman, K. 1994. The Changing Seasons. *Amer. Birds* 48:264–267.
Martin, E. M. 1984. A 1977 record of a Black-bellied Whistling-Duck from Lee County, S. C. comes to light. *Chat* 48:14.