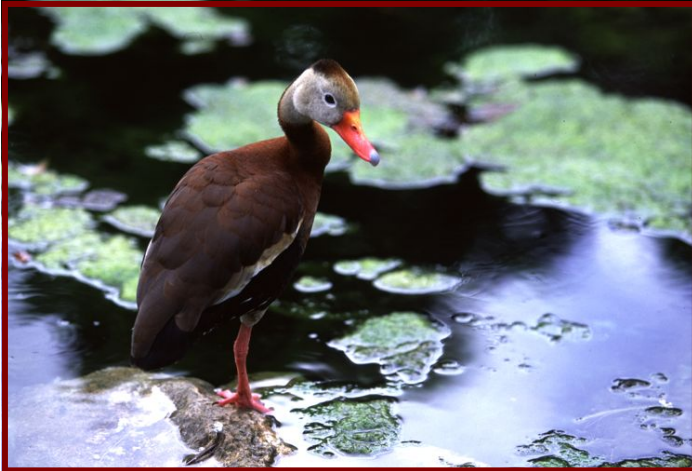




BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING DUCK

Dendrocygna autumnalis



In the United States, the black-bellied whistling duck is found only in the southernmost states. These are tall, long-necked, long-legged ducks. Their bodies are mainly chestnut and black, with red bills and pink legs. There is a large white wing patch that is visible in flight. These handsome, conspicuous birds often rest on large tree branches, stakes, and poles in the water or, less commonly, on the ground. They are easily domesticated and are quite tame even in the wild. Almost entirely herbivorous, they feed in shallow water on tubers and other aquatic vegetation, as well as in grain fields. Unlike many ducks, this species is largely nocturnal, migrating at night and resting and feeding during the day. It was formerly known as the "black-bellied tree duck."



SPECIES QUICK FACTS

WINGSPAN

The black-bellied whistling duck has an average wingspan of 37 inches.

WEIGHT

The black-bellied whistling duck averages about two pounds in weight.

FOOD HABITS

The black-bellied whistling duck consumes a variety of vegetative matter, as well as a small number of insects.

HABITAT

The black-bellied whistling duck prefers wetland habitats with lots of open water.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

The black-bellied whistling duck is found throughout the southern regions of the United States, particularly Texas, and into Mexico.

FUN FACT

Unlike most birds, male and female black-bellied whistling ducks are identical in size and appearance.