

## SECOND GALÁPAGOS RECORD OF THE BLACK-BELLIED TREE-DUCK

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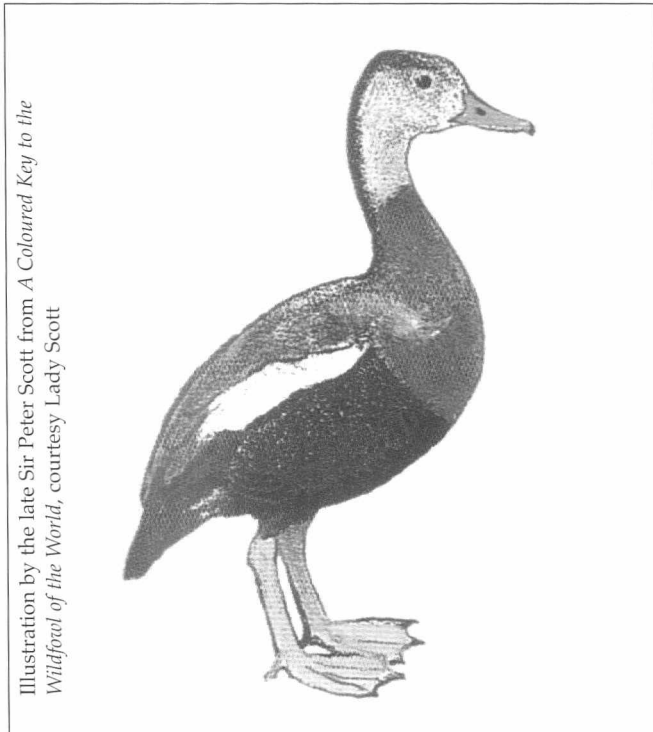


Illustration by the late Sir Peter Scott from *A Coloured Key to the Wildfowl of the World*, courtesy Lady Scott

The black-bellied tree-duck, *Dendrocygna autumnalis*, has apparently been recorded only once in Galápagos (Harris 1982, Castro and Phillips 1996). We report here a second sighting of the species.\*

We initially sighted the bird while it was sitting on a rock in a brackish lagoon at 'El Otro Lado', Puerto Ayora, Santa Cruz Island, in the late afternoon of 25 October 1999. The reddish bill was evident. It immediately took flight, showing the pink legs and repeatedly

giving the loud and distinctive whistling call. The flight was also distinctive, with head held low, and the diagnostic wing-pattern, with black trailing edge and long white central bar, was easily seen. The foreparts appeared dark brown, but the bird was seen from the side too briefly to determine the subspecies. It flew low over a mangrove fringe towards the sea and was not seen again.

The date of this observation corresponds with what might be expected of an individual migrating south from North or Central America to a wintering area farther south. The previous record (from a lagoon in southern Isabela) was of an individual of the southern race *D. a. discolor*, which occurs from mainland Ecuador north to Panama (Harris 1982, Castro and Phillips 1996).

\*Also sometimes known as the black-bellied (or red-billed) whistling-duck. – Ed.

### LITERATURE CITED

- Castro, I. and A. Phillips, A. 1996. A Guide to the Birds of the Galápagos Islands. Christopher Helm, London.
- Harris, M.P. 1982. A Field Guide to the Birds of Galápagos, 2nd ed. Collins, London.

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