



BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING DUCKS

Distinguishing BBW Ducks from similar looking ducks

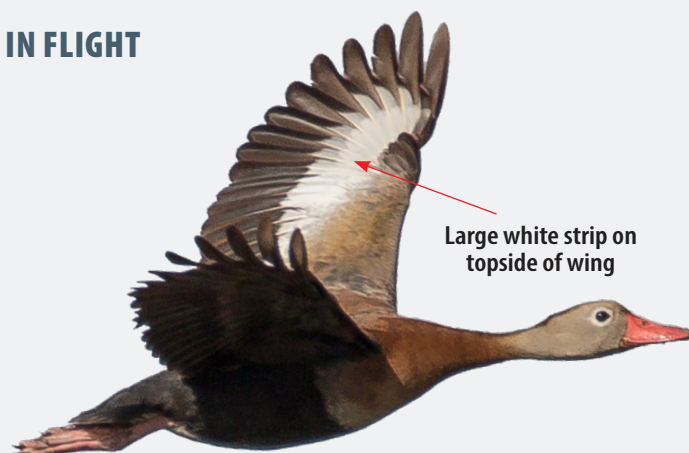
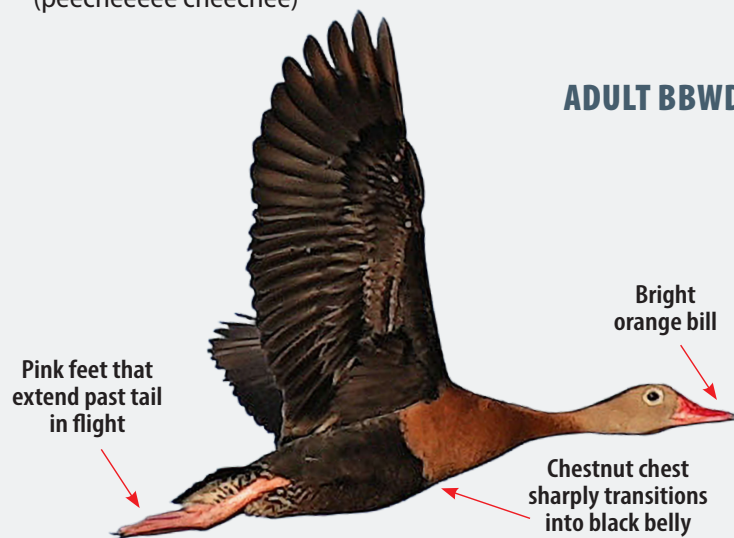
The October season is for black-bellied whistling ducks ONLY. Here are some tips for identifying black-bellies and other common ducks that might be encountered in early-October.

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING DUCK IN FLIGHT

- All black-bellies have a wide white stripe on upper surface of wings with a dark underside to the wing.
- Feet that extend beyond tail in flight
 - Older birds have orang bill, pink feet and chestnut chest sharply transitioning into black belly
 - Juvenile birds have grayish bills, lack bright pink feet, and no distinct black belly (see photo to right)
- Call: Very vociferous during flight. Three or more-note harsh whistle (peecheeeee cheechee)



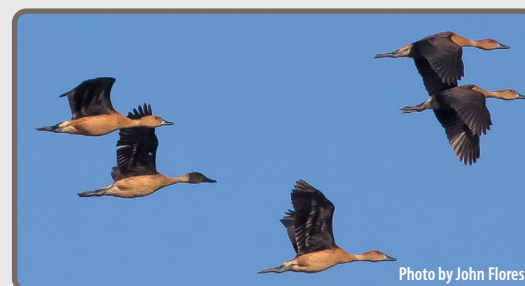
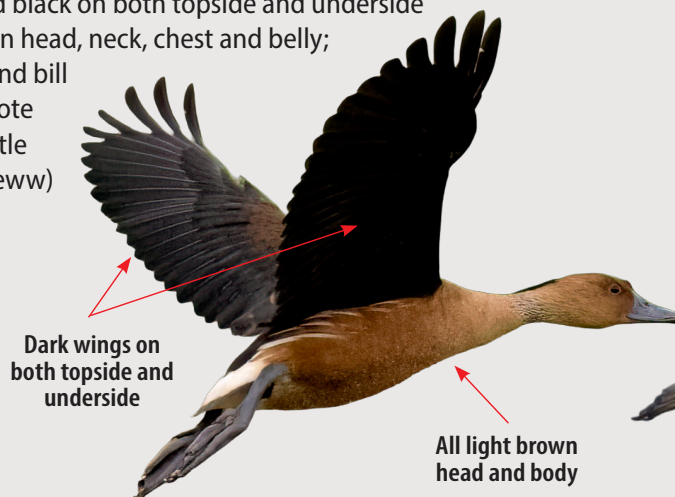
ADULT BBWDs IN FLIGHT



BBWD L: Jim Smilie; BBWD R: John Flores

FULVOUS WHISTLING DUCK

- Wings solid black on both topside and underside
- Light brown head, neck, chest and belly; Gray feet and bill
- Call: Two note harsh whistle (pe-cheeeeww)



HOW TO ID SIMILAR LOOKING WATERFOWL SPECIES



Photo by Todd Steele



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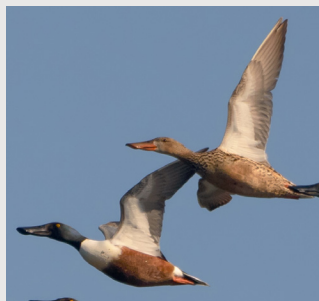
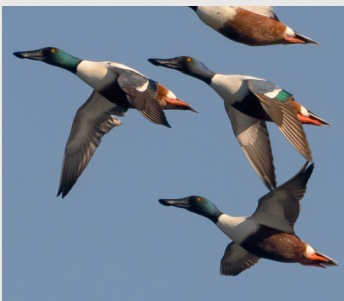
MOTTLED DUCK

- Completely dark brown chest & belly contrasts with light brown head
- White underside of wing
- Dark brown upper surface of wing with blue-purple speculum
- Calls: typical quack (hen) or pzzzt (drake); similar to mallard



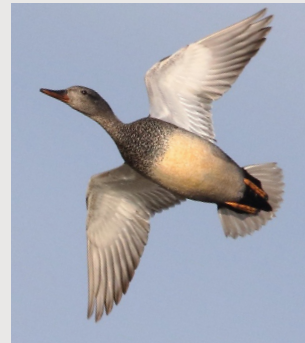
WOOD DUCK

- Square-ish tail
- Drakes white belly dark brown chest
 - Orange bill
 - Gray underwing
- Female white belly gray/brown chest & head and gray underwing
- Call: high pitched squeal



NORTHERN SHOVELER

- Top surface of wing similar to blue-winged teal
 - Large blue wing patch with a sometimes visible white stripe
- Underside of wing light gray/ white
- Drakes brown belly, white chest, dark (green) head & black bill
 - Early season drakes often with mottled brown on white chest
- Hens light brown, same color head, neck, chest, belly



GADWALL

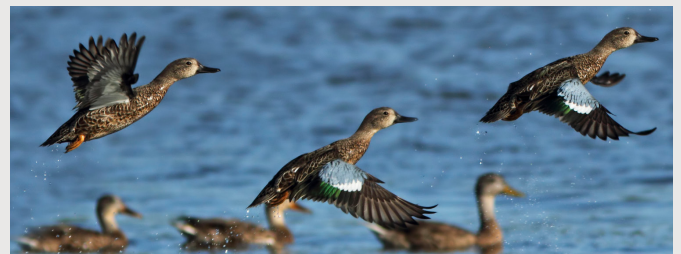
- White belly, dark brown/gray chest
- White underside of wing
- Small white speculum patches on each wing near the body
- Black bills (drake); orangish bills (hen)
- Orange feet



Photo by Ryan Askren

PINTAIL

- **Drakes:**
 - All white neck, chest, belly
 - Long neck
 - Black rump, narrow tail seen from underside
 - Gray from above
 - Call: soft coach's whistle
- **Hens:**
 - Light Brown throughout body from below
 - Slightly darker brown from above



BLUE-WINGED TEAL

- Small brown bird
- Large light blue wing patch on upper surface of wing
- White stripe on upper surface of wing (most visible for males)
- Male white face crescent often not visible in early season
- Yellow-orange legs
- Calls: high pitched quack (hen); soft whistle (drake)