

THE MONTCLAIR BIRD CLUB

YOUR WEEKLY BIRD 49

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by Ric Cohn

African Pygmy Goose

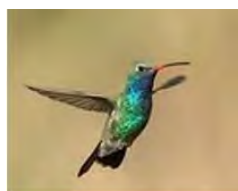
At 23–33 cm (about 12 inches) and only 260–290 g (about 1/3 of a pound), African pygmy geese are the smallest of all geese. They are found only in wetter areas of Sub-Saharan Africa where there is surface vegetation such as water lilies. eBird describes them as “colorful miniature waterfowl smaller than most ducks” and “shy and inconspicuous.” I was lucky enough to spot these from a small boat, in which we could approach them slowly and quietly, on a marshy river in the Okavango Delta.



Even though these tiny waterfowl are called "geese," their taxonomic affinities are unclear. They are sometimes said to be close to the dabbling ducks, at other times to the whistling ducks, but most classifications today rather helplessly assign them to an uncertain position among the waterfowl.



If you would like to see your photographs highlighted here, send one or two pictures with a short paragraph to [Sandy Sorkin & Rick Wright at MontclairBirdClub100@gmail.com](mailto:MontclairBirdClub100@gmail.com).



Southwest Wings

