



# Common Name

## West Indian whistling duck

**Scientific Name** *Dendrocygna arborea*

FAMILY: Anatidae

ORDER: Anseriformes

AZA MANEGMENT: Provisional SSP

### GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

- EUROPE Cuba, Bahamas
- ASIA
- NORTH AMERICA
- NEOTROPICAL
- AFRICA
- AUSTRALIA
- OTHER

### HABITAT

- FOREST
- DESERT
- GRASSLAND
- COASTAL
- RIVERINE
- MONTANE
- OTHER

### CIRCADIAN CYCLE

- DIURNAL

### TEMPERATURE TOLERANCE



From 30° F to 110° F

### DIET

- FRUGIVORE
- CARNIVORE
- PISCIVORE
- INSECTIVORE
- NECTIVORE
- OMNIVORE
- FOLIVORE
- OTHER

Captive: Mazuri waterfowl breeder, greens, insects  
Wild: grasses, fruits, berries, seeds and grains

### LIFE EXPECTANCY

Median Life Expectancy	Maximum Longevity
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Within AZA	Average 9 years, up to 22 years	
In the Wild	Unknown	

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In the Wild	Unknown	

CREPUSCULAR

NOCTURNAL

OTHER

# BREEDING INFORMATION



## AGE AT SEXUAL MATURITY



1 year



2 years

Incubation period: 30 days

Fledgling Period: 24-48 hours



## CLUTCH SIZE, & EGG DESCRIPTION



6-10 eggs



## COURTSHIP DISPLAYS

Unknown



## NEST SITE DESCRIPTION

Leaf-lined depressions on ground, no down lining



## CHICK DEVELOPMENT

Typical duckling development



## PARENTAL CARE

Both parents protect the young

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# CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION



## SOCIAL STRUCTURE

**In the Wild:** Whistling ducks are assumed to be monogamous, but this has not been well documented. They may stay with the same mate from one year to the next. Offspring may stay with parents up to a year in the wild, but the parents do not tolerate their older offspring as well during nesting.



## MIXED SPECIES EXHIBITS

Compatible in mixed species exhibits?

YES

NO

**Comments:** Can be housed with flamingos, waterfowl, ibis, shorebirds, small mammals and more!



## OPTIMAL HABITAT SIZE

For two birds: freshwater pond at least 12 inches deep and water surface of 25 square feet. Varied substrate including some of the following: soil, sand, vegetation, mulch, concrete. Exhibit space of at least 225 square feet

**In Captivity: Unknown**

**Minimum Group Size: 2**

**Maximum Group Size: As many as your pond and habitat will allow**



## MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES

Birds can be more dominant during introductions with other species, but usually settle in peaceably once an understanding has been reached with the other species. Be vigilant with older or compromised animals. Assertive displacement usually only lasts a few days

## ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

As with most whistling ducks, this species spends more time on land than other typical duck species. During chick-rearing, they will spend much more time on the water

## REFERENCES

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