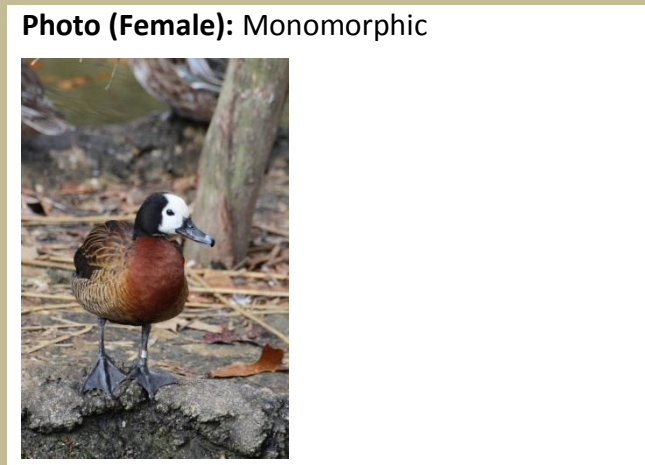
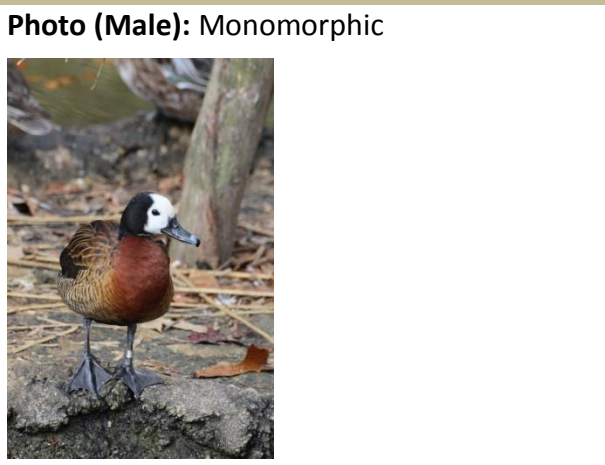


# Species Fact Sheets

**Order:** Anseriformes  
**Scientific Name:** *Dendrocygna viduata*

**Family:** Anatidae  
**Common Name:** White-faced Whistling-Duck

**AZA Management:**  Green  Yellow  Red  None



**NATURAL HISTORY:**

**Geographic Range:** Europe  Asia  North America  Neotropical   
 Africa  Australia  Other  [Click here to enter text.](#)

**Habitat:** Forest  Desert  Grassland  Coastal   
 Riverine  Montane  Other  Open-country wetlands

**Circadian Cycle:** Diurnal  Crepuscular  Nocturnal  Other  [Click here to enter text.](#)

**Cold Tolerance:** To 70° F  To 60° F  To 50° F  To 40° F   
 To 30° F  To 20° F  Other  Below freezing need open water, shelter, and heat source

**Heat Tolerance:** To 30° F  To 50° F  To 70° F  To 90° F   
 To 110° F  Other  Above 90F provide shaded areas.

**Diet:** Frugivore  Carnivore  Piscivore  Insectivore   
 Nectivore  Omnivore  Folivore  Other (Add Below)

**Captive Dietary Needs:**  
 Mazuri waterfowl maintenance/breeder.

**Life Expectancy in the Wild:** Males: Likely ~10-12 years Females: Likely ~10-12 years

**Life Expectancy in Captivity:** Males: ~10-12 years Females: ~10-12 years

# Species Fact Sheets

## BREEDING INFORMATION:

**Age at Sexual Maturity:** Males: 2 years Females: 2 years

**Courtship Displays:** Strong pair bond that extends into multiple breeding seasons. Mating normally occurs in the water, but pairs sometimes also copulate in shallow water. Mutual bill-dipping, then the male rolls its cheeks on its back several times. Copulation follows, then step-dance (treading water) and wing-raising.

**Nest Site Description:** Nest in a variety of sites ranging from concealed ground nests to tree cavities or other hollows.

**Clutch Size, Egg Description:** 6-12 white eggs

**Incubation Period:** 27-32 days

**Fledgling Period:** 8 weeks

**Parental Care:** Both sexes incubate and are very protective of offspring. Parents conceal their ducklings in thick cover until they are able to fly.

**Chick Development:** Ducklings hatch with sharp claws and stiffened tails, which help them crawl out of deep cavities. Ducklings are marked with contrasting patterns: a spotted back, small cheek patch, and yellow base color.

## CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION:

**Social Structure in the Wild:** Highly gregarious and congregate in dense feeding and roosting flocks.

**Social Structure in Captivity:** Social, tend to spend time in groups along the edge of exhibit pools during the day, vocalize and active in early morning. Passive species.

**Minimum Group Size:** 1.1

**Maximum Group Size:** Few to multiple pairs, or same sex groups.

**Compatible in Mixed Species Exhibits:** Yes **Comments:** Do well mixed with a variety of other waterfowl species.

**Optimal Habitat Size:** Exhibit should house at least 6" of water, but ideally would be a pond or pool. Birds roost on perches, rocks, and grass banks and spend a good amount of time on the ground vs. in the water.

**Management Challenges:** Hybridize with other *Dendrocygna* species; care should be taken when breeding in mixed species exhibits.

## ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Incubation parameters: 37.5C; 45% RH.  
For hand-rearing protocol email [Jamie.ries@state.mn.us](mailto:Jamie.ries@state.mn.us)

# Species Fact Sheets

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## REFERENCES:

Todd, Frank S. (1996). Natural History of the Waterfowl. Ibis Publishing Company, California.

del Hoyo, J., Elliott, A. & Sargatal, J. eds. (1992). Handbook of the Birds of the World. Vol. 1. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona.

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Photo: Ben Hubred

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## COMPLETED BY:

Name: Jamie Ries

Date: 1/1/2015