
White-faced Whistling Duck

Dendrocygna viduata

Class: *Aves*

Order: *Anseriformes*

Family: *Anatidae*

Characteristics: The white-faced whistling ducks are named for their white colored face and their [three-whistle call](#). These ducks also have a white patch on the throat. The top of the head and neck are black. Their breast is a reddish chestnut brown color. ([Oregon Zoo](#)) The back and wings are dark brown to black with the flanks having white barring on black. They have a long grey bill, long neck, and long legs. The legs and feet are a bluish grey color ([Beauty of Birds](#)). The average length of a white-faced whistling duck is 16 inches, and average weight is 1.5 pounds.

Behavior: This whistling duck is active mostly at night. They live in large flocks of sometimes thousands of birds. The white-faced whistling duck feeds by [wading, swimming, or diving](#) ([Arkive](#)). The triple note “whee-whee-whee” call of the white-faced whistling duck is used as communication for these birds in a variety of situations. These ducks are excellent walkers, swimmers, and flyers. ([Sacramento Zoo](#))

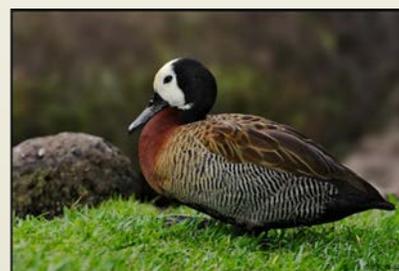
Reproduction: The white-faced whistling ducks usually build their nests on the ground in covered areas. ([WAZA](#)) Before breeding, they will perform several different mating displays. The most important in pair formation being mutual preening. Both parents will incubate the 6-12 eggs for 26-28 days. The ducklings can feed themselves after just one day and will leave the nest after 8 weeks. The ducklings will reach sexual maturity at just one year old ([Sacramento Zoo](#)).

Diet: Wild: Aquatic vegetation, seeds, rice, mollusks, crustaceans, and aquatic insects ([Sacramento Zoo](#))

Zoo: Flock raiser pellet, grains, greens, and oyster shell

Conservation: According to the [IUCN Redlist](#) of endangered species, the white-faced whistling duck is of least concern. This species has an extremely large range, covering two continents, and the population size is also over 1.7 million individuals. The population trend for this species is at an increase even though they are hunted locally and are highly susceptible to avian diseases.

FYI: The nine different species of whistling ducks each have their own unique call.



Range & Habitat:

Generally found on freshwater lakes or reservoirs. They have a large range of tropical South America, Panama, Costa Rica, central and eastern Africa, Madagascar and the Comoro Islands



Lifespan: up to 15 years in captivity, unknown in the wild.

Special Adaptations: This duck freezes in a tall, erect posture when alarmed.

IUCN Conservation Status:
Least Concern

