



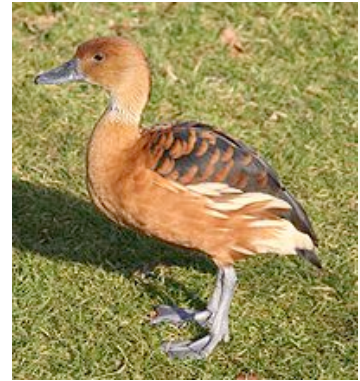
FULVOUS WHISTLING DUCKS

ANSERIFORMES

Family: Anatidae

Genus: *Dendrocygna*

Species: *bicolor*



Range: Tropical regions of Central America, N and E South America, Gulf Coast of the US, Sub-Saharan Africa, Madagascar and the Indian subcontinent E to Burma.

Habitat: freshwater wetlands with plentiful vegetation. Commonly seen in rice growing areas.

Niche: primarily herbivorous, largely nocturnal, aquatic

Wild diet: mostly seeds of water plants, some parts of plants and aquatic invertebrates

Zoo diet:

Life Span: (Wild)

(Captivity)

Sexual dimorphism: Female slightly duller and smaller

Location in SF Zoo: Children's Zoo

APPEARANCE & PHYSICAL ADAPTATIONS:

The Fulvous Whistling Duck is a medium-sized duck with long legs and a long neck. It has cinnamon brown feathers and dark brown wings with a silvery-white stripe on the edges. The tail and wing patches are chestnut, and a distinctive white "V" separates the brownish-black tail from the dark-colored back, which is visible in flight. The bill, legs and feet are blue-gray.

This whistling duck forages both on land and in water. In the water, it acts like a dabbling duck at and just below the waterline. Makes shallow dives and tips-up. It is a filter-feeder, not a grazer. On land, they most often forage in wet rice fields.

Weight: 21 – 34 oz

Length: 17 - 20 inches

Wing span:

STATUS & CONSERVATION

Not Globally threatened. Fulvous whistling ducks are a widespread species of waterfowl. IUCN lists the fulvous Whistling Duck as least concern. Because of its close association with agricultural lands, it risks exposure to pesticides.

COMMUNICATION AND OTHER BEHAVIOR

As the name implies, these are noisy birds with a clear whistling *kee-wee-ooo* call. They are vociferous both in flight and when feeding.

This species is gregarious, and during the non-breeding season congregations of 20-30, or several hundreds to thousands may occur in feeding areas. Unlike many other ducks, whistling-ducks appear to have no obvious courtship displays.

This species is subject to seasonal movements according to availability of food and water.

COURTSHIP AND YOUNG

This species breeds in single pairs or loose groups and remains in dispersed pairs or small groups during the post-breeding molt. Nest is mound of plant material amidst the reeds but hollow trees or old bird nests are occasionally used for nesting. Both the male and female incubate and participate in brood rearing and a mated pair stays bonded for many years. Grey-downy chicks with whitish below, leave the nest soon after hatching.

The Fulvous Whistling-Duck is a frequent nest parasite, laying eggs in other Fulvous Whistling-Duck nests, as well as the nests of other duck species. These other duck species often lay their eggs in Fulvous Whistling-Duck nests as well.

Incubation: 24 – 26 days	Sexual Maturity: 1 year
# of Young: 12 – 13 eggs	Fledges: 60 days

MISCELLANEOUS

The fulvous whistling-duck's name comes from the hoarse whistling sound it makes and from its coloring. Fulvous means tawny.

Sources:

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Handbook of the Birds of the World Vol I © 2001

Princeton Encyclopedia of Birds © 2009, Christopher Perrins, Princeton University Press, p.

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Fulvous_Whistling-duck/id

<http://www.ducks.org/hunting/waterfowl-id/fulvous-whistling-duck>