

# Species Fact Sheets

**Order:** Anseriformes  
**Scientific Name:** *Dendrocygna arborea*

**Family:** Anatidae  
**Common Name:** West Indian whistling duck

**AZA Management:**  Green  Yellow  Red  None

**Photo (Male):**



**Photo (Female):**



## NATURAL HISTORY:

**Geographic Range:** Europe  Asia  North America  Neotropical   
 Africa  Australia  Other Cuba, Bahamas

**Habitat:** Forest  Desert  Grassland  Coastal   
 Riverine  Montane  Other [Click here to enter text.](#)

**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 [Click here to enter text.](#)

**Heat Tolerance:** To 30° F  To 50° F  To 70° F  To 90° F   
 To 110° F  Other [Click here to enter text.](#)

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

**Captive Dietary Needs:**

Captive: Mazuri waterfowl breeder, greens, insects

Wild: grasses, fruits, berries, seeds and grains

**Life Expectancy in the Wild:** Males: [Click here to enter text.](#) Females: [Click here to enter text.](#)

**Life Expectancy in Captivity:** Males: Average 9 years, up to 22 years Females: Average 9 years, up to 22 years

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## BREEDING INFORMATION:

**Age at Sexual Maturity:** Males: 1 year Females: 2 years

**Courtship Displays:** [Click here to enter text.](#)

**Nest Site Description:** Leaf-lined depressions on ground, no down lining

**Clutch Size, Egg Description:** 6-10

**Incubation Period:** 30 days

**Fledgling Period:** 24-48 hours

**Parental Care:** Both parents protect the young

**Chick Development:** Typical duckling development

## 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.

**Social Structure in Captivity:** [Click here to enter text.](#)

**Minimum Group Size:** 2

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

**Compatible in Mixed Species Exhibits:** Yes **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.

**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.

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## REFERENCES:

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## COMPLETED BY:

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