

Lesser whistling duck family at Pandan canal

Subjects: Lesser whistling duck, *Dendrocygna javanica* (Aves: Anseriformes: Anatidae).

Subjects identified by: Contributor.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Clementi Road, Pandan canal perpendicular to road; 4 July 2011, 1150-1200 hr.

Habitat: Urban parkland, concretised canal with grassy banks next to apartment blocks.

Observers: Contributor and others.

Observation: A family of two adults and ten ducklings were observed swimming in a single file upstream towards the road bridge along Clementi Road. Both adults (presumably the parents) were at the front and back of the single file, with all the ducklings in the middle. The ducklings were distinctly marked with cream and dark brown patches.

Remarks: The lesser whistling duck inhabits wet and marshy freshwater areas. It has been documented to breed in Singapore and is known to lay up to 12 eggs (Tan, 2001). It is one of two resident duck species in Singapore and is locally endangered (Lim et al., 2008).

References:

Lim K. S., H. C. Ho, K. K. Lim, K. C. Lim, L. K. Wang & G. Davison, 2008. Birds. In: Davison, G. W. H., P. K. L. Ng & H. C. Ho (eds.), *The Singapore Red Data Book: Threatened Plants and Animals of Singapore*. Second edition. The Nature Society (Singapore). pp. 177-189.

Tan, R., 2001. Lesser Whistling Duck, http://www.naturia.per.sg/buloh/birds/Dendrocygna_javanica.htm (accessed on 23 December 2013).



Photograph by Tan Heok Hui

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