

Biodiversity Record: Breeding of lesser whistling duck at Portsdown Swamp

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

Subjects identified by: Peng Yuan Han.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Portsdown Swamp at One-North Crescent (1°17'58.3"N 103°47'31.8"E); 14 Dec 2024, around 1740 hrs.

Habitat: Urban parkland. Freshwater pond in swampy area surrounded by secondary scrub vegetation and concrete buildings.

Observer: Peng Yuan Han.

Observation: A pair of whistling ducks with a lone duckling (Fig. 1) were observed for about twenty minutes, swimming about in the pond. The adults kept close watch over the young while it explored the pond. No other ducklings were spotted at the site.

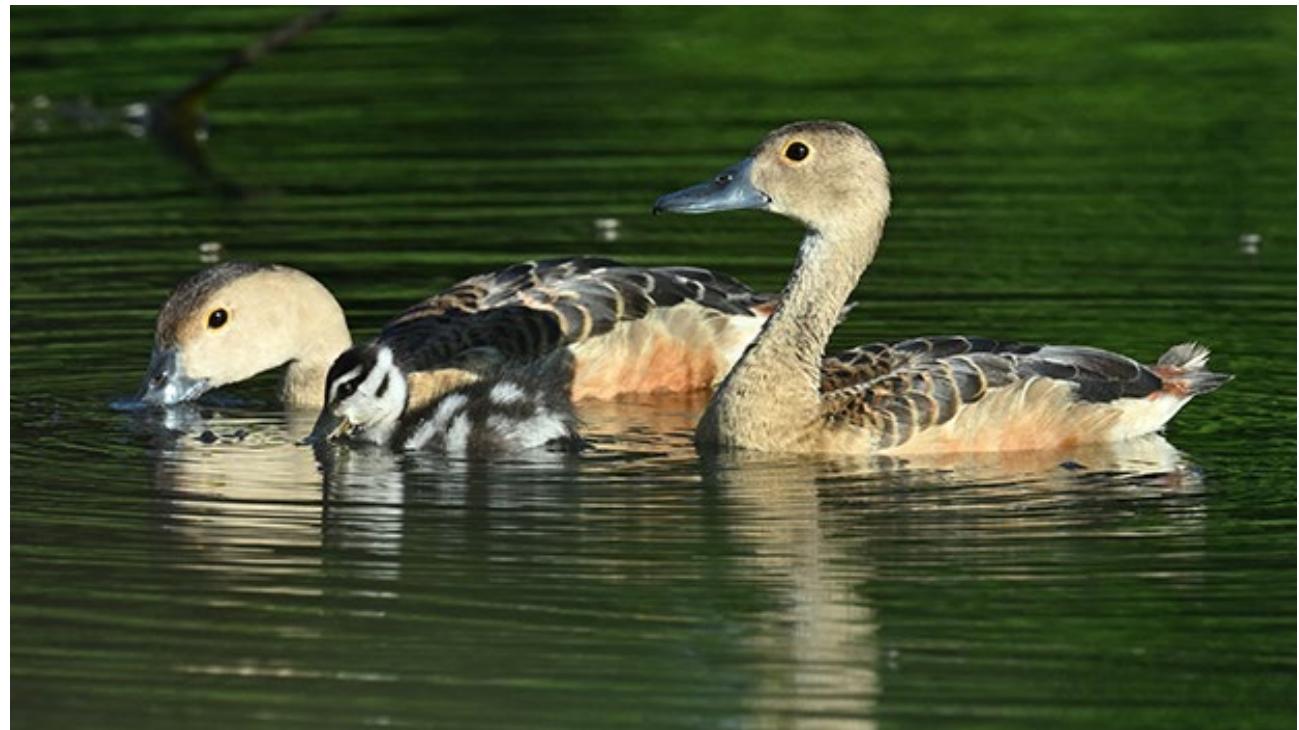


Fig. 1. A pair of lesser whistling ducks with a single duckling at the freshwater pond (Photograph by: Peng Yuan Han).

Remarks: The lesser whistling duck is a native species of waterfowl that is regarded as uncommon and 'endangered' in Singapore (Yong et al., 2024). Breeding has been recorded multiple times in Singapore, including recently at Pandan canal (Tan, 2014a), West Coast Park (Tan, 2014b), and Pulau Ubin (Thomas et al., 2022). There is even an incidence at the Botanic Gardens which implied hybridization with the introduced wandering whistling duck, *Dendrocygna arcuata* (see OwYong, 2016).

The first record of the lesser whistling duck at the featured site was in April 2024 by OwYong (2024) but there was no mention of breeding activity or the presence of ducklings.

Acknowledgement: Thanks to Alan Owyong for alerting the author to the presence of whistling ducks at the site.

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