

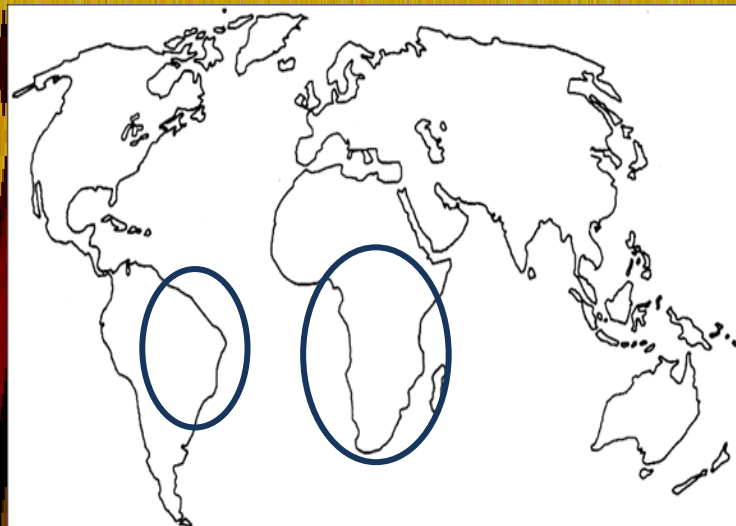
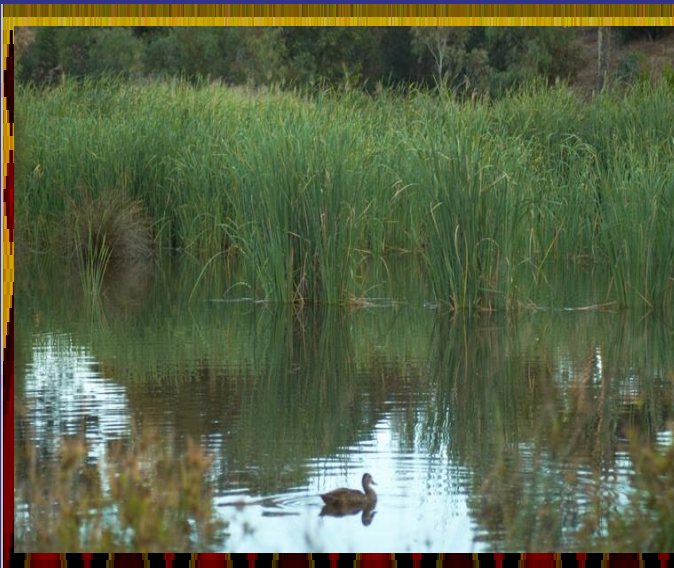
# White-faced Whistling Duck

## *Dendrocygna viduata*

One of the most common and easily recognisable Ducks in South Africa, the White-faced Whistling Duck is also found in Costa Rica, Argentina, Uruguay, Africa South of the Sahara and Madagascar.

These common birds are found in a wide variety of Wetlands, including some artificial ones, and show a preference for Fresh Water in Open Country. They are mainly a night-time forager and obtain their food mostly by diving but also on the surface by wading and dabbling.

They breed in loose colonies or small groups and their nests are made using surrounding vegetation with no down or only traces of down. They will make their nests on the ground, in long grass or among reed-beds. The chicks are independent at around 8 weeks of age. More than 200 000 were recorded in West Africa in 1987 and groups of 15 000 are commonly reported elsewhere. In Africa they have benefitted from protection of large areas of water.



**Lifespan:** 15 Years  
**Weight:** 502 - 820 g  
**Size:** 38 - 48 cm  
**Breeding Season:** Starts at beginning of the Rainy Season  
**Incubation Period:** 26 - 28 Days  
**Number of Chicks:** 4 - 13  
**Diet:** Vegetable Matter and Aquatic Invertebrates – Molluscs, Crustaceans and Insects.  
**Problems They Face:** Pesticides  
**Conservation Status:** Not Globally Threatened