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## FIRST RECORD OF WANDERING WHISTLING DUCK *DENDROCYGNA ARCUATA* IN WESTERN SARAWAK, MALAYSIA

Anthony Sebastian

### INTRODUCTION

The Wandering Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna arcuata* occurs across the Indonesian archipelago, extending southwards into northern Australia and northwards to Mindanao, the Philippines (MacKinnon & Phillipps, 1993; Madge & Burns, 1988). The species is expected to be a breeding resident and partial migrant in southern Borneo (Kalimantan, Indonesia), with numerous records from the Barito and Mahakam drainages, although nesting has never been confirmed. Its preferred habitat in southern Borneo is freshwater wetlands and ox-bow lakes. Its northern limit to date (on Borneo) has been a flock of up to a 100 at Pontianak, western Kalimantan (Holmes, 1997). The species has not been recorded in the Malaysian part of Borneo (Smythies, 1999).

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## DESCRIPTION OF SIGHTING

In October 2003, Wandering Whistling Ducks were observed in an industrial area northeast of Kuching, Sarawak (N01° 35.736'; E110° 25.541'). Repeated sightings were obtained between 26<sup>th</sup> October and 12<sup>th</sup> November 2003. They were observed daily at one small pool with open water. A maximum eleven (11) birds used this pool. On 4<sup>th</sup> November, a single Lesser Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna javanica* was present, giving an opportunity to compare the two species. A comparison between these two species, which overlap in range, is given in Appendix I. On 11<sup>th</sup> November, an adult female Garganey *Anas querquedula* was also present. The birds were more active in the afternoons and late evenings.