

# Rescue and Rehabilitation of Spot-billed duck (*Anas poecilorhyncha*)



IUCN Red List:  
Global –  
Least Concern

Rescued Spot-billed duck (*Anas poecilorhyncha*)

**Aves**

[Class of birds]

**Anseriformes**

[Order of waterfowl, magpie goose and screamers]

**Anatidae**

[Family of ducks, geese, and swans]

***Anas poecilorhyncha***

[Dabbling duck]

Species described by Forster in 1781

Vedanthangal is one of the oldest and reputed bird sanctuaries, situated in Kanchipuram District of Tamil Nadu. The 29.516 ha area of the sanctuary is 85kms away from Chennai city. There is large number of local and national migratory birds visiting the lake every year during the monsoon. Migration takes place during October-November. Depending on the rainfall, the birds remains in the sanctuary till February-March. During this period birds build nest, breeds and returns with their young ones. Not all birds found in the tanks are breeding birds some of them migrate here for feeding such as pelicans and coots. The common bird species observed in the study are Asiatic open bill storks, Spot bill pelicans, White ibis, Cormorant, Night heron, Grey heron, White breasted kingfisher, Coot, spot billed-duck, pond heron,

little egret and duck. In the sanctuary, 22 species of birds are observed which is less than 10000 numbers.

The spot-billed duck species belongs to duck Anatidae family that is the regular visitor to the sanctuary. On 16.11.2016 an adult spot-billed duck was noticed near the sanctuary lake with deteriorated health condition. The bird was carefully captured and examined. It was found that the bird was dull and desperately in need for first aid. The local veterinarian was contacted for the first aid. According to veterinarian advice purified water was given on regular interval to protect the bird in good condition. Further, the bird was given water with mixing glucose and kept in the secluded place to diagnose the health status. Later it was taken to the pathology department of Madrad Veterinary College, Vepery on 17.11.2016.

**Global Distribution:**  
Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, India, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Viet Nam

There the bird was provided with nutritional supplement, blood was then taken for the culture to find out whether any bacterial disease affects it. Moreover oral and cloacal swab was done to conduct isolation and identification to examine the e-coli bacterial infection. The laboratory results disclosed that the bird was not affected with any major infectious disease and status of the bird was normal. However, they ruled out bacterial clinical infections. The Head of the Department, Wildlife Medicine was advised to provide the usual diet pattern for a week in a good environment. Later, the bird was kept in the Chennai Head Quarters Forest Range Office for further observation and documentation.

Subsequently, the bird was released back at the original habitat of the same sanctuary which shown the swift action and joined with the own population and resumed the usual behaviour pattern. The author is thankful to Ms. K. Geethanjali, I.F.S., and Wildlife Warden-Chennai division for the constant encouragement and support for the study.

## **Baskar, N.**

**Biologist, Guindy National Park, Chennai. Email: nbrzoo@yahoo.com**

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