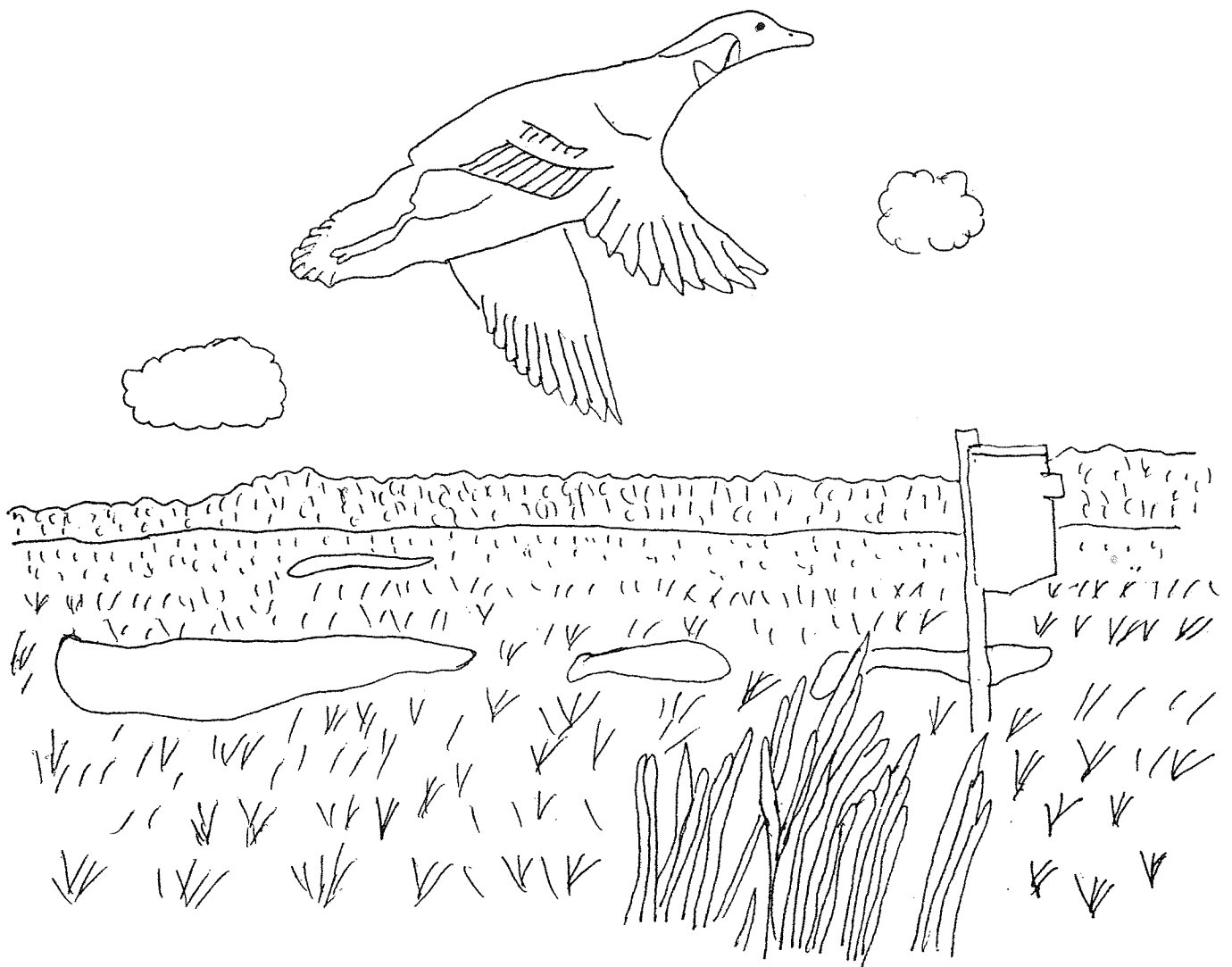


1990-91

DEERING CONSERVATION COMMISSION
WOOD DUCK RESTORATION PROGRAM



Deering Conservation Commission
Wood Duck Nesting Program

The Deering Conservation Commission initiated the Wood Duck Nesting Program in December of 1987 due to dramatic losses of wetlands and waterfowl habitat in the 1980's. The number of ducks in the Atlantic Flyway plummeted during this time period.

The wood duck is a small duck approximately 20 inches in length and weighing about 1 1/2 pounds. The males have a green and purple chest, red eyes and a reddish-orange bill. The females are brown with streaks of green and purple adorning her back and wings. The wood duck is very talkative and has a distinctive call.

Courtship and mating begin in early April and extends into May. After courting is completed, the search for a nesting site begins. Wood ducks nest in almost any natural cavity in a tree which is at least 4 inches in width and far enough above the ground or water to protect it from predators. These natural nesting sites have been severely reduced by the filling of wetlands, draining of ponds and the destruction of large sections of deciduous forests resulting from lumbering operations or residential construction. The nesting boxes are an attempt to substitute artificial nesting sites for natural ones. The female builds a nest from pieces of wood and down pulled from her chest. The female lays from 8 to 15 cream colored eggs which she incubates for 30 days. Hatching season reaches its peak from early June to mid July.

The average size of a wood duck brood is 11. Soon after the eggs have hatched, the mother leaves the nest for the final time that year. She flies to the ground or water below the nest and calls the young ducklings and each jumps out of the nest. The ducklings survive the fall to the ground or water because their bones are soft and still too flexible to break. They head immediately to the water.

The mortality to young ducklings is great. Predators such as turtles, bass and snakes take their toll. By the end of the first week only 8 of the original brood survives. After 4 weeks only 5 or 6 survive. Thus, approximately half of the ducklings hatched each year are lost in the first few weeks. Between 4 to 6 weeks after hatching the ducklings acquire independent feeding habits and the brood begins to break up. The wood ducks diet consists of 90% vegetable matter (acorns, grass, seeds and aquatic weeds) and various invertebrates.

Between 1987 and 1991 the Deering Conservation Commission has constructed and refurbished wood duck nesting sites throughout the Town of Deering. These nesting boxes must be refurbished with fresh shavings each year to assure reuse. While refurbishing the nesting boxes in February and March, a record of each years usage has been maintained and is attached to this report.

The 1990 - 1991 season with its high winds resulted in the loss or destruction of several wood duck nesting sites. This coupled with the draining of several temporal beaver impoundments has resulted in the loss of 12 of the original 31 nesting sites. As the Wood Duck Nesting Box Program progresses, more time and expense is required to maintain and replace existing boxes and to construct new ones. Thus, for the Deering Conservaton Commission has been able to fund this program with donated time and materials. If this program is to increase in scope, participation and funding from other sources will be necessary. Citizens of the Town of Deering who wish to sponser the continued growth of this program with time, materials or funding are urged to contact the Conservation Commission for additional information.

Edward M. Cobbett
Deering Conservation Commission
Deering Town Hall
RFD #1, Box 166
Deering, NH 03244

Box ID#	Year Installed	Box Type	Location	Map Key	* USAGE 1987-1988	USAGE 1988-1989	USAGE 1989-1990	USAGE 1990-1991
DCC-1	1987	#1	2nd New Hampshire Turnpike Beaver Pond	A	Wood Duck 5-1	Not used	Not used	Not used
DCC-2	1987	#2	2nd New Hampshire Turnpike Beaver Pond	A	Not used	Not used	Not used	Not used
DCC-3	1987	#2	2nd New Hampshire Turnpike Beaver Pond	A	Not used	Not used	Not used	Not used
DCC-4	1987	#1	2nd New Hampshire Turnpike Beaver Pond	A	Wood Duck 6-0	Wood Duck 4-0	Wood Duck 4-0	Merganser 6-0
DCC-5	1988	#1	WILKENS Cemetery Beaver Pond	B	N/A	Merganser 6-0	Wood Duck 6-0	Wood Duck 3-2
DCC-6	1988	#1	LAZY BROWN Beaver Pond	D	N/A	Not used	Wood Duck 6-2	Wood Duck 6-0
DCC-7	1988	#1	Lead Mine Beaver Pond	C	N/A	Wood Duck 6-0	Wood Duck 5-1	Destroyed
DCC-8	1988	#1	LAZY BROWN Beaver Pond	D	N/A	Not used	Wood Duck 2-8	Wood Duck 2-3
DCC-9	1988	#1	Lead Mine Beaver Pond	C	N/A	Wood Duck 4-0	Wood Duck 0-11	Not used
DCC-10	1988	#1	Lead Mine Beaver Pond	C	N/A	Not used	Wood Duck 0-15	Wood Duck 5-0
DCC-11	1988	#1	Tressel Beaver Pond	E	N/A	Not used	Not used	Pond Drained
DCC-12	Existing	#3	WILKENS Cemetery Beaver Pond	B	Wood Duck 0-6	Wood Duck 6-0	Wood Duck 0-8	Not used
DCC-13	Existing	#3	WILKENS Cemetery Beaver Pond	B	Wood Duck 0-4	Not used	Not used	Destroyed
DCC-14	Existing	#3	Deering Reservoir Swamp	F	Wood Duck 0-6	Wood Duck 0-4	Not used	Wood Duck 5-1
DCC-15	Existing	#3	Deering Reservoir Swamp	F	Wood Duck 0-15	Not used	Wood Duck 6-0	Wood Duck 4-2
DCC-16	1988	#1	Deering Reservoir Swamp	F	N/A	Not used	Not used	Merganser 6-0
DCC-17	1988	#2	Tressel Beaver Pond	E	N/A	Not used	Not used	Pond Drained
DCC-18	1988	#2	Tressel Beaver Pond	E	N/A	Not used	Not used	Pond Drained
DCC-19	1987	#2	2nd New Hampshire Turnpike Beaver Pond	A	Not used	Not used	Not used	Destroyed
DCC-20	1989	#1	Deering Audubon South Beaver Pond	G	N/A	N/A	Not used	Wood Duck 5-2
DCC-21	1989	#1	Deering Audubon North Beaver Pond	H	N/A	N/A	Merganser 3-0	Pond Drained
DCC-22	1989	#1	Deering Audubon North Beaver Pond	H	N/A	N/A	Wood Duck 6-0	Pond Drained
DCC-23	Existing	#3	Deering Audubon North Beaver Pond	H	N/A	Wood Duck 6-1	Wood Duck 5-0	Pond Drained
DCC-24	Existing	#3	SPRAGUE'S Beaver Pond	K	N/A	N/A	Wood Duck 6-0	Pond Drained
DCC-25	Existing	#3	SPRAGUE'S Beaver Pond	K	N/A	N/A	Wood Duck 0-6	Pond Drained
DCC-26	1990	#1	Johnson's Beaver Pond	I	N/A	N/A	N/A	Not used
DCC-27	1990	#1	Johnson's Beaver Pond	I	N/A	N/A	N/A	Not used
DCC-28	Existing	#3	Johnson's Beaver Pond	I	N/A	N/A	Wood Duck ?-Hatched	Destroyed
DCC-29	1990	#1	Hunter's Beaver Pond	J	N/A	N/A	N/A	Wood Duck 5-0
DCC-30	1990	#2	Hunter's Beaver Pond	J	N/A	N/A	N/A	Not used
DCC-31	1990	#1	Hunter's Beaver Pond	J	N/A	N/A	N/A	Not used
			Percent usage of functional sites		$\frac{6}{19} = 32\%$	$\frac{6}{20} = 30\%$	$\frac{14}{28} = 56\%$	$\frac{10}{19} = 53\%$

* Type of Usage
Eggs Hatched - Eggs Unhatched



- A 2nd NEW HAMPSHIRE TURNPIKE
- B OLD COUNTY ROAD
- C NORTH ROAD
- D NORTH ROAD
- E BENNINGTON DEPOT ROAD
- F RESERVOIR ROAD
- G CLEMENT HILL ROAD
- H CLEMENT HILL ROAD
- I CLEMENT HILL ROAD
- J FALLS ROAD
- K WOLF HILL ROAD

NESTING BOX SITES

LOCATION: TOWN OF DEERING, N.H.
 MAP BASE: U.S.G.S. TOPO. HILLSBORO QUAD.
 SCALE: 1:62500

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