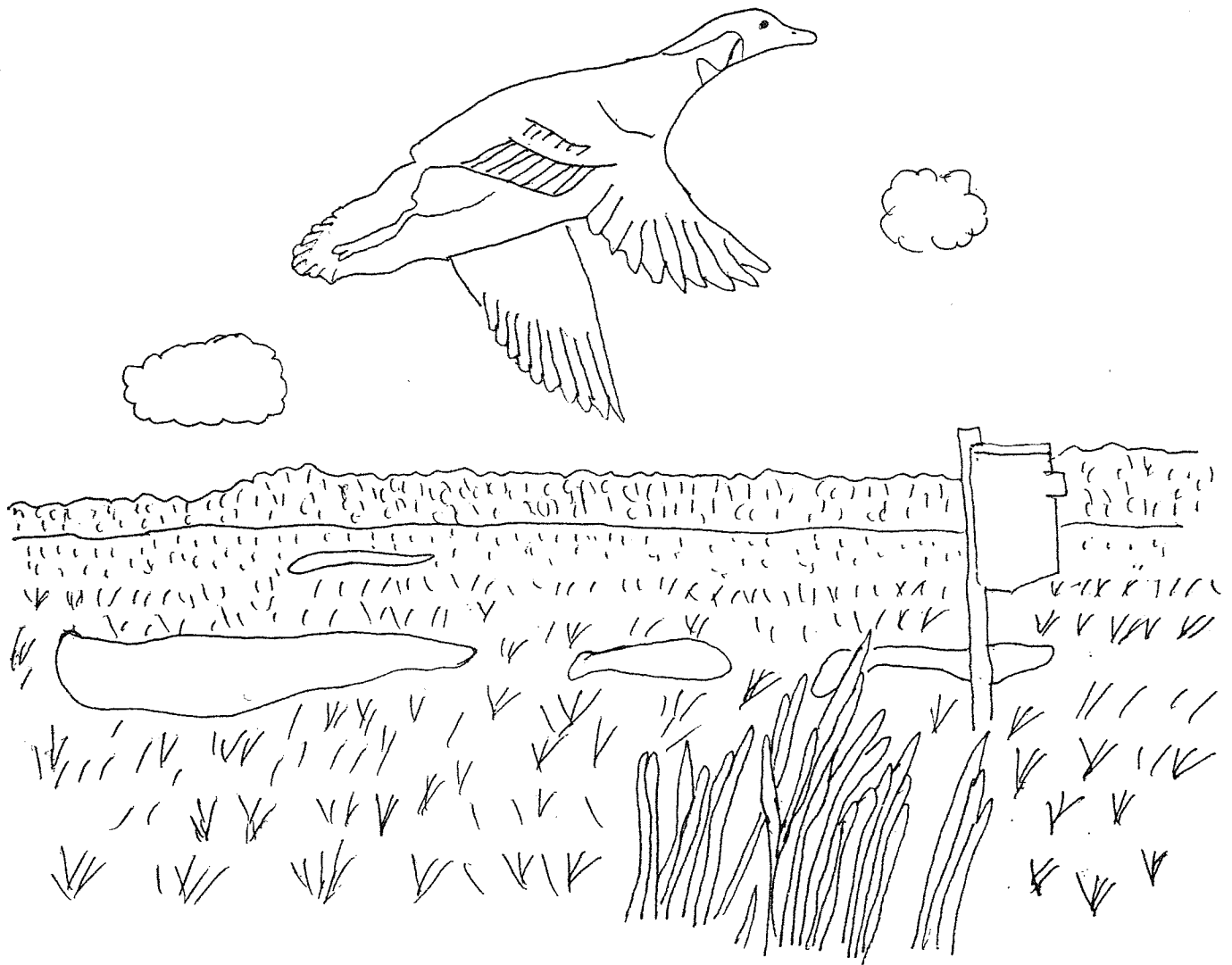


1994-95

# 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 1995, 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 1994-1995 season saw the loss of a limited number of boxes due to the mild weather conditions and lack of severe storms. The beaver impoundment's were also fairly stable in the 1994-1995 season. 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 far the Deering Conservation 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 sponsor the continues growth of the program with time, materials, or funding are urged to contact the Conservation Commission for additional information

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## WOOD DUCK BOX LOCATIONS 1994-1995

BOX ID #	YEAR INSTALLED	CURRENT STATUS	LOCATION
DCC-1	1995	IN USE	FISH & GAME CLUB PROPERTY
DCC-2	1995	IN USE	FISH & GAME CLUB PROPERTY
DCC-3	1995	IN USE	FISH & GAME CLUB PROPERTY
DCC-4	1995	IN USE	FISH & GAME CLUB PROPERTY
DCC-5	1988	IN USE	WILKENS CEMETARY POND
DCC-6	1988(1994)	IN USE	LAZY BROWN BEAVER POND
DCC-7	1988(1994)	IN USE	LEAD MINE BEAVER POND
DCC-8	1988	IN USE	LAZY BROWN BEAVER POND
DCC-9	1988(1994)	IN USE	LEAD MINE BEAVER POND
DCC-10	1988	IN USE	LEAD MINE BEAVER PONE
DCC-11	1995	IN USE	GERINI BROOK SWAMP
DCC-12	EXISTING	IN USE	WILKENS CEMETARY BEAVER POND
DCC-13	EX.(1992)	IN USE	WILKENS CEMETARY BEAVER POND
DCC-14	EXISTING	IN USE	DEERING RESERVOIR SWAMP
DCC-15	1995	IN USE	WEARE BORDER POND
DCC-16	1988	IN USE	DEERING RESERVOIR SWAMP
DCC-17	1995	IN USE	LAZY BROWN NORTH
DCC-18	1995	IN USE	NORTH CORNER SWAMP
DCC-19	1995	IN USE	LAZY BROWN NORTH
DCC-20	1989(1992)	IN USE	LAZY BROWN BEAVER POND
DCC-21	1995	IN USE	WEARE BORDER POND
DCC-22	1995	IN USE	PLEASANT POND BRIDGE ROAD
DCC-23	1995	IN USE	PLEASANT POND BRIDGE ROAD
DCC-24	EXISTING	IN USE	SPRAGUE'S BEAVER POND
DCC-25	EXISTING	IN USE	SPRAGUE'S BEAVER POND
DCC-26	1990(1994)	IN USE	JOHNSON'S BEAVER POND
DCC-27	1990	IN USE	JOHNSON'S BEAVER POND
DCC-28	EX.(1994)	IN USE	JOHNSON'S BEAVER POND
DCC-29	1995	IN USE	POLING'S SWAMP
DCC-30	1990	IN USE	HUNTER'S BEAVER POND
DCC-31	1990	IN USE	HUNTER'S BEAVER POND
DCC-32	1992	IN USE	DEERING RESERVOIR SWAMP
DCC-33	1992(1994)	IN USE	POLING SWAMP
DCC-34	1994	IN USE	DEERING RESERVOIR SWAMP
DCC-35	1994	IN USE	HUNTER'S BEAVER POND
DCC-36	1994	IN USE	FULTON POND
DCC-37	1994	IN USE	NORTH ROAD SWAMP
DCC-38	1994	IN USE	NORTH ROAD SWAMP
DCC-39	1994	IN USE	PATTERN BROOK
DCC-40	1994	IN USE	BARTLET BRIDGE

DCC-41	1994	IN USE	PALMER'S MARSH
DCC-42	1994	IN USE	PALMER'S MARSH
DCC-43	1994	IN USE	PATTERN SWAMP
DCC-44	1994	IN USE	PATTERN SWAMP
DCC-45	1994	IN USE	CLIFTON'S CAMPGROUND
DCC-46	1994	IN USE	BARTLET BRIDGE
DCC-47	1994	IN USE	OLD COUNTY ROAD SWAMP
DCC-48	1994	IN USE	SHEPARD'S CROSSING
DCC-49	1994	IN USE	MANSON'S POND
DCC-50	1995	IN USE	HUNTER'S POND
DCC-51		OPEN	
DCC-52	1991	IN USE	AUDUBON EAST BEAVER POND
DCC-53	1991	IN USE	AUDUBON EAST BEAVER POND
DCC-54	1995	IN USE	KING FOREST BEAVER POND
DCC-55	1991	IN USE	AUDUBON - GREAT SWAMP
DCC-56	1991	IN USE	AUDUBON - GREAT SWAMP
DCC-57	1991	IN USE	AUDUBON - SMITH POND
DCC-58	1991	IN USE	AUDUBON - SMITH POND
DCC-59	1991	IN USE	AUDUBON - SMITH POND
DCC-60	1995	IN USE	CO OP BEAVER POND
DCC-61	1995	IN USE	CO OP BEAVER POND
DCC-62	1995	IN USE	CO OP BEAVER POND
DCC-63	1995	IN USE	CO OP BEAVER POND

BOXES NOT CHECKED AS OF MARCH 1, 1995	03
BOXES DOWN AND REHUNG	01
BOXES DESTROYED 1994-1995	01
TOTAL BOXES CHECKED 1994-1995	39
TOTAL BOXES USED	18
PERCENT USAGE	46%
NEW BOXES INSTALLED 1994-1995	19
TOTAL BOXES AVAILABLE FOR 1995-1996 SEASON	62

## WOOD DUCK BOX USAGE 1994-1995

BOX ID #	USAGE 1994-1995	USAGE 1995-1996	USAGE 1996-1997
DCC-1	NEW		
DCC-2	NEW		
DCC-3	NEW		
DCC-4	NEW		
DCC-5	NU		
DCC-6	NU		
DCC-7	WD 4/2		
DCC-8	NU		
DCC-9	WD 5/1		
DCC-10	WD 5/0		
DCC-11	NEW		
DCC-12	WD 4/0		
DCC-13	WD 0/1		
DCC-14	NU		
*DCC-15	DESTROYED		
DCC-16	WD 4/1		
DCC-17	NEW		
DCC-18	NEW		
DCC-19	NEW		
DCC-20	WD 6/0		
DCC-21	NEW		
DCC-22	NEW		
DCC-23	NEW		
DCC-24	WD 4/1		
DCC-25	NU		
DCC-26	NU		
DCC-27	WD 0/16		
DCC-28	WD 4/1		
DCC-29	NEW		
DCC-30	NU		
DCC-31	M 5/0		
DCC-32	NU		
DCC-33	WD 8/0		
DCC-34	NU		
DCC-35	WD 4/0		
DCC-36	WD 3/0		
DCC-37	NU		
DCC-38	NU		

<b>BOX ID #</b>	<b>USAGE 1994-1995</b>	<b>USAGE 1995-1996</b>	<b>USAGE 1996-1997</b>
DCC-39	NU		
DCC-40	NU		
DCC-41	NU		
DCC-42	NU		
DCC-43	NU		
DCC-44	WD 6/0		
DCC-45	NU		
DCC-46	NOT CHECKED		
DCC-47	NU		
DCC-48	NOT CHECKED		
DCC-49	NU		
DCC-50	NEW		
DCC-51	OPEN		
DCC-52	NU		
DCC-53	WD 8/0		
DCC-54	NEW		
DCC-55	M 5/0		
*DCC-56	DOWN		
DCC-57	M 4/0		
DCC-58	NU		
DCC-59	NOT CHECKED		
DCC-60	NEW		
DCC-61	NEW		
DCC-62	NEW		
DCC-63	NEW		

\*DCC-15      NUMBER REASSIGNED TO NEW LOCATION.

\*DCC-56      SUPPORT TREE DESTROYED. BOX PLACED ON NEW SUPPORT.

## WOOD DUCK BOX LOCATIONS 1993-1994

BOX ID #	YEAR INSTALLE D	CURRENT STATUS	LOCATION
DCC-1	1987	OPEN	
DCC-2	1987	OPEN	
DCC-3	1987	OPEN	
DCC-4	1987	IN USE	2ND NH TURNPIKE
DCC-5	1988	IN USE	WILKENS CEMETARY POND
DCC-6	1988(1994)	IN USE	LAZY BROWN BEAVER POND
DCC-7	1988(1994)	IN USE	LEAD MINE BEAVER POND
DCC-8	1988	IN USE	LAZY BROWN BEAVER POND
DCC-9	1988(1994)	IN USE	LEAD MINE BEAVER POND
DCC-10	1988	IN USE	LEAD MINE BEAVER PONE
DCC-11	1988	OPEN	
DCC-12	EXISTING	IN USE	WILKENS CEMETARY BEAVER POND
DCC-13	EX.(1992)	IN USE	WILKENS CEMETARY BEAVER POND
DCC-14	EXISTING	IN USE	DEERING RESERVOIR SWAMP
DCC-15	EXISTING	IN USE	DEERING RESERVOIR SWAMP
DCC-16	1988	IN USE	DEERING RESERVOIR SWAMP
DCC-17	1988	OPEN	
DCC-18	1988	OPEN	
DCC-19	1987	OPEN	
DCC-20	1989(1992)	IN USE	LAZY BROWN BEAVER POND
DCC-21	1989	OPEN	
DCC-22	1989	OPEN	
DCC-23	EXISTING	OPEN	
DCC-24	EXISTING	IN USE	SPRAGUE'S BEAVER POND
DCC-25	EXISTING	IN USE	SPRAGUE'S BEAVER POND
DCC-26	1990(1994)	IN USE	JOHNSON'S BEAVER POND
DCC-27	1990	IN USE	JOHNSON'S BEAVER POND
DCC-28	EX.(1994)	IN USE	JOHNSON'S BEAVER POND
DCC-29	1990(1994)	IN USE	HUNTER'S BEAVER POND
DCC-30	1990	IN USE	HUNTER'S BEAVER POND
DCC-31	1990	IN USE	HUNTER'S BEAVER POND
DCC-32	1992	IN USE	DEERING RESERVOIR SWAMP
DCC-33	1992(1994)	IN USE	POLING SWAMP
DCC-34	1994	IN USE	DEERING RESERVOIR SWAMP
DCC-35	1994	IN USE	HUNTER'S BEAVER POND
DCC-36	1994	IN USE	FULTON POND
DCC-37	1994	IN USE	NORTH ROAD SWAMP
DCC-38	1994	IN USE	NORTH ROAD SWAMP



<b>BOX ID #</b>	<b>USAGE 1990-1991</b>	<b>USAGE 1991-1992</b>	<b>USAGE 1993-1994</b>
DCC-1	NU		
DCC-2	NU	NU	
DCC-3	NU	NU	
DCC-4	M 6/0	WD 0/10	WD 3/6
DCC-5	WD 3/2	WD 5/3	WD 3/6
DCC-6	WD 6/0	WD 4/14	WD
DCC-7			
DCC-8	WD 2/3	NU	WD 4/0
DCC-9	NU	WD 4/2	
DCC-10	WD 5/0	WD 0/14	WD 11/0
DCC-11			
DCC-12	NU	WD 0/14	NU
DCC-13			WD 7/1
DCC-14	WD 5/1	WD 5/1	WD 0/14
DCC-15	WD 4/2	WD 6/1	WD 4/2
DCC-16	M 6/0	WD 5/1	WD 6/2
DCC-17			
DCC-18			
DCC-19			
DCC-20	WD 5/2		WD 12/0
DCC-21			
DCC-22			
DCC-23			
DCC-24			WD 0/5
DCC-25			NU
DCC-26	NU	WD 5/1	
DCC-27	NU	WD 4/1	WD 7/0
DCC-28			
DCC-29	WD 5/0	WD 6/8	
DCC-30	NU	WD 5/5	WD 0/4
DCC-31	NU	WD 3/10	M 0/0
DCC-32			WD 4/2
DCC-33			
DCC-34			
DCC-35			
DCC-36			
DCC-37			
DCC-38			

# WOOD DUCK BOX USAGE 1987-1994

BOX ID #	USAGE 1987-1988	USAGE 1988-1989	USAGE 1989-1990
DCC-1	WD 5/1	NU	NU
DCC-2	NU	NU	NU
DCC-3	NU	NU	NU
DCC-4	WD 6/0	WD 4/0	WD 4/0
DCC-5		M 6/0	WD 6/0
DCC-6		NU	WD 6/2
DCC-7		WD 6/0	WD 5/1
DCC-8		NU	WD 2/8
DCC-9		WD 4/0	WD 0/11
DCC-10		NU	WD 0/15
DCC-11		NU	NU
DCC-12	WD 0/6	WD 6/0	WD 0/8
DCC-13	WD 0/4	NU	NU
DCC-14	WD 0/6	WD 0/4	NU
DCC-15	WD 0/15	NU	WD 6/0
DCC-16		NU	NU
DCC-17		NU	NU
DCC-18		NU	NU
DCC-19	NU	NU	NU
DCC-20			NU
DCC-21			M 3/0
DCC-22			WD 6/0
DCC-23		WD 6/1	WD 5/0
DCC-24			WD 6/0
DCC-25			WD 0/6
DCC-26			
DCC-27			
DCC-28			WD ?
DCC-29			
DCC-30			
DCC-31			
DCC-32			
DCC-33			
DCC-34			
DCC-35			
DCC-36			
DCC-37			
DCC-38			