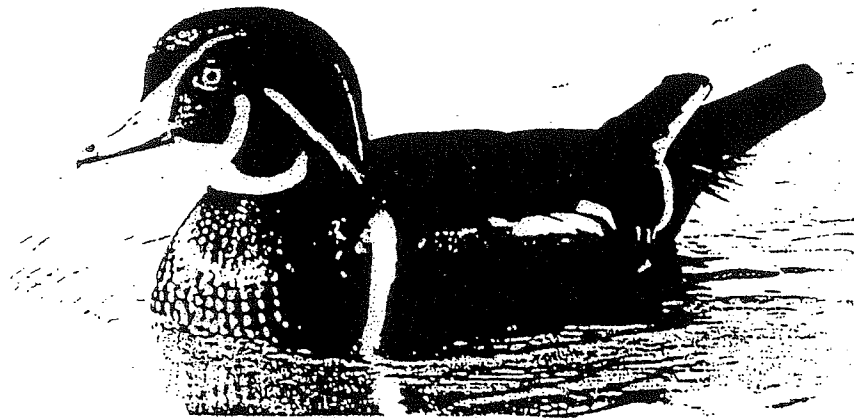


**DEERING
CONSERVATION
COMMISSION**

MARCH 2006

WOOD DUCK BOX RESTORATION PROGRAM 2005 REPORT



WATER06COVER

March 2006

Deering Conservation Commission Wood Duck Program

We want to thank those citizens who have donated 100% of the time, materials, and made accessible their land for this program.

This program was initiated in December of 1987 to offset the dramatic loss of wetlands in the Atlantic flyway in the 1980's, and the collapse of waterfowl populations because of habitat loss.

This is now the 17th year of the wood duck box restoration program. In that time there has been a progression of incremental improvements. The box design has incorporated a predator guard and reinforced backboard to improve hatch ratios and extend box life. We have increased the number of boxes from an initial 50 to a high of about 80. Each year about 10% are lost. The high yield area boxes are replaced, and some low yield areas are phased out. We are continually trying to locate new areas to attract ducks.

The 2005 hatch year was somewhat disappointing with only 47% of the eggs hatching successfully. In the 52 boxes checked for the 2005 year, a total 145 eggs were deposited, and 68 hatched, 77 did not hatch. This ratio was comparable with the 2002 and 2000 years, but off the average of about 70% that we anticipated for a regular year.

Although it is interesting to look at statistics, it is difficult to draw meaningful conclusions. So many factors can dramatically change the numbers, and is unrelated to the actual capacity of the habitat to support ducks. A very hot day during the spring can dramatically effect hatch ratios. There appears little evidence of density strife, which would result in large concentrations of unhatched eggs. Only three boxes showed a large number of unhatched eggs.

Our older marshes are losing trees that will support boxes. We experimented with mounting boxes on pipe, but have run into problems. Frequently, the 14' pipe just gradually sinks into the mud or blows over. The box ends up in the water. Of the about 20 pipe used, only about three or four are still active. We also have mounted boxes on live trees at the marsh edge. Mice often take over these boxes, and the ducks just do not seem attracted to boxes with dry feet.

If you are aware of new beaver activity with flooded woodlands, these areas offer the best potential to expand our program. Please let us know so we may continue to attract these birds to our town.

For more information call Gary Bono at 464-5107

Duckboxreport06.word

K06a.DCC

Mar-06

**DEERING
CONSERVATION
COMMISSION****WOOD DUCK BOX PROGRAM
EGG COUNT SUMMARY**

HATCH YEAR	# BOXES CHECKED	HATCHED/ UNHATCHED EGGS	TOTAL EGGS	% HATCHED/ UNHATCHED
94	33	70 / 23	93	67% / 33%
95	35	119 / 36	155	70% / 30%
96	53	135 / 68	203	70% / 30%
97	50	119 / 58	177	67% / 33%
98	65	144 / 29	173	83% / 17%
99	60	162/ 80	242	67% / 33%
00	67	142/119	261	54% / 46%
01	53	153/43	196	78%/22%
02	56	78/108	186	42%/58%
03	57	108/49	157	69%/31%
04	52	113/47	160	71%/29%
05	52	68/77	145	47%/53%

CONSERVATION COMMISSION WOOD DUCK BOX PROGRAM

ID #	year box placed	LOCATION	Usage*	Usage	Usage	Usage	Usage	Usage	Usage	Usage	Usage	Usage	Usage	Usage	Usage	Usage	Usage	Usage	Usage
1	95/06	HUNTER'S POND	94-95	95-96	96-97	97-98	98-99	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	04-05	05-06					
2	95	HUNTER'S POND				NEW	M15/0	NU	M15/0	WD 2/2	WD7/0	NU	LOST	NEW					
3	95	JOHNSON'S POND				NEW	WD13/2	WD10/1	NU	NU	WD 5/0	WD 4/0	WD 8/2	WD 7/0					
4	00/06	JOHNSON'S POND				NEW	NU	WD 5/3	WD 0/20	WD 3/1	NU	WD 9/2	WD 6/0	WD 8/1					
5	96	WILKINS CEMETERY	O	WD 1/15	0	WD0/17	NU	WD 0/6	NU	NU	WD 8/0	WD 5/1	WD 6/1	NU					
6	94/00	LEAD MINE	O	WD 3/0	0	?	WD1/0	LOST/NEW	NU	WD 6/0	NU	NU	NU	NU					
7	94	LEAD MINE	WD 4/2	WD 3/0	WD 4/0	?	WD3/0	WD11/0	NU	NU	NU	NU	NU	NU					
8	97	JOHNSON'S PD			NEW	NU	NU	LOST	OPEN	OPEN	NEW	LOST	OPEN	NU					
9	94	LEAD MINE	WD 5/1	WD 5/0	LOST	?	NEW	NU	NU	WD 0/7	NU	NU	NU	NU					
10	(96)	LEAD MINE	WD 5/0	WD 4/0	WD 2/3	?	WD5/0	WD16/2	WD 8/2	WD 12/0	WD 0/11	NU	WD 9/0	WD 8/0					
11	-97	LEAD MINE			NEW	?	NEW	NU	NU	NU	NU	NU	NU	NU					
12	96	WILKINS CEMETERY	WD 4/0	WD 0/11	O	WD8/0	WD4/0	WD 0/4	WD 4/1	WD 14/1	WD 10/0	WD 5/4	WD 9/0	WD 9/0					
13	96/00	LEAD MINE N.	WD 0/1	GONE	WD 8/0	NU	NU	NU / NEW	NU	LOST	WD 0/10	NU	LOST	NU					
14	96	COBBETT'S BEAVER PD	O	0	M 9/0	WD9/1	WD7/0	LOST/NEW	LOST	LOST	OPEN	OPEN	NEW	NU					
15	95	WEARE BORDER PD	GONE	0	M 7/1	WD6/0	WD7/0	WD 5/3	M 12/0	WD 9/0	WD 5/1	WD 6/3	UC	OPEN					
16	6	DUDLEY PD BEAVER DAM																	
16	96	RESERVOIR MARSH	WD 4/1	WD 11/3	O	NU	NU	NU	NU	NU	NU	NU	NU	NU					
17	95	LEAD MINE S.	NEW	0	WD 4/1	?	WD4/2	NU	NU	NU	M 0/4	WD 9/0	WD 6/0	WD 7/1					
18	95	NORTH CORNER	NEW	0	O	LOST	OPEN	WD5/0	NU	NU	NU	NU	LOST	NU					
18A	2	GLEN ROAD PD																	
19	95	LEAD MINE S.	NEW	O	WD 2/0	?	NU	NU	WD 0/3	NU	WD 0/9	M 8/0	NU	NU					
20	92	LAZY BROWN	WD 6/0	WD 3/0	0	?	NU	NU	NU	NU	NU	NU	NU	NU					
21	01	LEAD MINE	NEW	O	M 6/0	WD7/2	WD4/0	LOST	OPEN	NU	WD 0/5	NU	LOST	OPEN					
22	95	COBBETT'S BEAVER PD	NEW	M 5/1	M 8/1	M10/0	M8/0	WD8/0	WD 7/4	LOST	OPEN	OPEN	NEW	NU					
23	95	PLEASANT PD RD	NEW	M 5/0	LOST	WD6/0	NU	WD0/11	NU	UC	NU	WD 0/2	NU	NU					
24	93/00	PLEASANT PD RD	WD 4/1	WD 10/0	WD 7/0	NU	NU	NU / NEW	WD 0/1		WD 6/0	NU	NU	NU					
25	93/00	PLEASANT PD RD	O	O	O	NU	NU	OST/NEW	M 10/1		LOST	OPEN	NU	LOST					
26	47	JOHNSON'S PD	O	WD 1/2	M 9/1	WD9/0	WD0/8	WD 0/12	LOST	OPEN	NEW	M 4/0	WD 5/1	LOST					
27	90/00	JOHNSON'S PD	WD 0/16	WD 2/0	WD 6/0	LOST	OPEN	NEW	WD 0/9	WD 10/0	WD 4/0	WD 3/0	NU	NU					
28	94/00	JOHNSON'S PD	WD 4/1	WD 6/1	WD 0/10	LOST	OPEN	NEW	M 13/1	WD 13/1	WD 4/0	WD 3/0	NU	WD 6/0					
29	95	POLING'S MARSH	GONE	WD 4/0	WD 13/1	WD1/7	NU	NU	WD 7/1	WD 6/0	WD 4/0	WD 3/0	NU	NU					
		USAGE THIS PAGE	36/23	63/33	85/25	56/29	83/11	67/44	80/40	69/12	52/42	47/21	45/7	45/13					
		BOXES CHECKED THIS PAGE	13	22	22	14	24	22	25	23	24	26	23	22					

NOTES: WD=wood duck, M=merganser, ## = hatched / unhatched eggs, USAGE = nest yr/check box yr, NU = not used, UC=unchecked, LOST = box gone, OPEN or "-" = # unassigned

CONSERVATION COMMISSION WOOD DUCK BOX PROGRAM

ID #	Year box placed	LOCATION	Usage 94-95	Usage 95-96	Usage 96-97	Usage 97-98	Usage 98-99	Usage 99-00	Usage 00-01	Usage 01-02	Usage 02-03	Usage 03-04	Usage 04-05	Usage 05-06
30	90	HUNTER'S PD	O	O	WD 11/1	WD11/1	WD11/1	NU	NU	WD 12/1	WD 8/0	WD 4/0	WD 7/1	WD 6/2
31	90	HUNTER'S PD	M 5/0	M 10/1	WD 10/0	NU	WD0/13	NU	WD 9/0	WD 11/3	WD 0/13	WD 0/17	WD 13/0	WD 0/16
32	92	RESERVOIR MARSH	O	O	0	NU	NU	LOST	WD 0/5	OPEN	-	-	-	-
33	94	POLINGS MARSH	WD 8/0	WD 12/0	WD 0/12	WD4/0	WD10/0	M15/0	WD4/0	WD 4/0	NU	LOST	OPEN	-
34	02	AIRPORT MARSH	O	WD 8/0	0	LOST	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	NEW	NU	NU	NU	NU
35	02	AIRPORT MARSH	WD 4/0	O	LOST	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	NEW	NU	NU	UC	UC
36	94	FULTON PD	WD 3/0	WD 4/0	WD 0/16	NU	NU	WD 6/1	NU	-	WD 0/8	NU	WD 4/4	NU
37	(96)	DUDDLEY BR. MARSH	O	O	0	LOST	OPEN	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
38	97	HUNTER'S POND	O	GONE	NEW	WD0/18	OPEN	NEW	WD 0/21	NU	OPEN	-	-	-
39	94	PATTERN BROOK	O	O	WD 4/0	NU	NU	NU	WD 0/1	NU	WD 0/8	NU	NU	NU
40/18a	94	GLEN RD PD	O	O	NEW	WD6/0	NU	NU	WD 0/6	NU	NU	NU	NU	NU
41	94	PALMER'S MARSH	O	O	0	NU	NU	LOST	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	-	-	-
42	94	PALMER'S MARSH	O	O	0	NU	NU	NU	M 3/0	NU	UC	UC	LOST	OPEN
43	94/02	PATTERN MARSH	O	M 5/0	WD 0/12	WD11/0	NU	NU	WD 0/17	WD12/0	NEW	WD 11/0	WD 6/0	NU
44	94/02	PATTERN MARSH	WD 6/0	WD 5/1	WD 0/1	NU	NEW	WD5/0	NU	LOST	NEW	NU	NU	WD 8/0
45	94	CLIFTON'S CAMP	O	O	WD 4/2	NU	NU	NU	WD 0/8	WD 4/0	NU	NU	NU	UC
46	94	PLEASANT PD ROAD	O	O	0	NEW	NU	WD5/0	WD 5/0	WD 4/0	NU	NU	WD 8/1	WD 0/14
47	97	LILY PD			NEW	NU	WD5/0	WD 5/0	WD 4/0	NU	WD 0/8	NU	WD 8/1	WD 0/14
47A	03	LILY PD			NEW	NU	WD5/0	WD 5/0	WD 4/0	NU	WD 0/8	NU	WD 8/1	WD 0/14
48	97	DUDDLEY BROOK S.			NEW	LOST	OPEN	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
49	97	LILY PD			NEW	NU	WD5/1	WD0/11	NU	M 16/1	WD 0/13	WD 4/2	WD 6/1	WD 0/14
50	95	HUNTER'S PD	NEW	WD 12/1	WD 11/2	M18/0	NU	WD 5/0	WD 9/5	NU	M 2/0	LOST	OPEN	-
51	94	DRISCOLL CART RD	NEW	0	0	0	WD5/0	WD 5/0	WD 10/1	WD 0/6	WD 1/1	WD 11/0	WD 8/18	NU
52	91	AUDUBON EAST	O	?	WD 5/0	NU	NU	M0/13	WD 6/0	WD4/0*	WD 4/0	WD 6/0	WD 5/0	WD 3/2
53	91	AUDUBON EAST	WD 8/0	?	0	NU	WD6/0	M11/1	WD 0/1	WD4/0*	WD 0/9	WD 6/2	WD 4/0	M 6/0
54	95	LEAD MINE S.	NEW	0	NEW	NU	NU	NU	NU	-	-	-	-	-
55	91	AUDUBON	?	?	LOST	OPEN	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
56	91	KARL'S MARSH	?	?	0	0/6	NU	WD11/0	WD 5/2	NU	NU	NU	NU	NU
57	91	BLACK FOX PD.	?	?	0	NU	NU	NU	WD12/0	M 0/10	OPEN	-	-	-
58	91	BLACK FOX PD.	?	?	?	NU	NU	NU	NU	LOST	OPEN	-	-	-
TOTAL THIS PAGE			34/0	56/3	45/45	50/25	37/15	63/26	62/67	77/22	15/65	42/21	59/36	NEW 23/61
BOXES CHECKED THIS PAGE			20	19	21	19	22	20	23	16	18	17	17	16

NOTES: WD=wood duck, M=meiganser, #/# = hatched / unhatched eggs, USAGE = nest yr/check box yr, NU = not used, UC= unchecked, LOST = box gone, OPEN or "*" = # unassigned

