

## **Deering Conservation Commission 2018 Hatch Season-Wood Duck Box Report**

The Deering Conservation Commission (DCC) maintains now 45 Wood Duck nesting boxes throughout the town, primarily on its many conserved lands. The boxes were installed with the intention of providing suitable nesting opportunities for Wood Ducks. Annually, DCC members fan out across town to locate the boxes, see if they've been used, record the results, and refresh them for use during the coming nesting season.

### **PROGRAM UPDATES:**

Two new tops were made and installed. Three new box numbers were made and applied. Two boxes were moved from Tree Frog Pond to Black Fox Pond (both on Audubon land). The box at Clifton's Camp was relocated higher on its tree. Branches were trimmed and new lag bolts were added or replaced where needed. Two new boxes were added to Johnson's Pond, and a new predator guard installed to a box. Two new boxes were also installed at Beaver Pond/Hunter's, and one at Airport Marsh. One new box was just installed at the edge of Spiller's Swamp for next season.

### **SUMMARY OF RESULTS:**

It is difficult to get to each box every year. This is primarily due to the remote locations of the boxes, and most require frozen water to get to with ease. This winter every box was checked, and fresh wood shavings placed due to help from every Conservation Commission member. A few of us fell in up to our ankle, knee, and thigh. There were no broken bones, but there was a significant hematoma injury.

Fourteen boxes were used of the 39 boxes which is a 38.46% rate of use. There will be 45 boxes to check next winter. There is a loose-leaf notebook at Town Hall with more information.

### **LOOKING AHEAD:**

Two boxes were noted to be in poor condition on Cobbett's Pond and will be replaced next winter. One roof should be replaced and a few more lags should be used on loose boxes. A list has been made of those boxes that have not been used for > 12 years, and the plan is to relocate these to hopefully better locations.

GPS locations have been noted for all, except those on Homestead Marsh. We have been unable to find any there and for now will remove that location from our list.

### **CONCLUSION:**

We have a good group of members that are willing to help with this program. Maybe Homestead Marsh will be an area we can move some boxes to. We'll be trying other areas that look like there is good potential, as we take down the inactive boxes I mentioned.

Sincerely,  
Dennis Sawyer