

**Deering Conservation Commission
2019 Hatch Season-Wood Duck Box Report**

The Deering Conservation Commission (DCC) maintains now 43 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, repair and relocate as needed, and refresh them for use during the coming nesting season.

PROGRAM UPDATES:

One box was removed that had not been used for many years. Three were relocated as needed and three were replaced. One new lid and one new number were applied.

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.

Thirteen boxes were used of the 43 boxes which is a 30.23 rate of use. There is a loose-leaf notebook at Town Hall with more information and also an album of pictures of each site.

LOOKING AHEAD:

One metal post is leaning quite a bit in the water in Pleasant Pond and hopefully it can be straightened when the ice melts. Waders will be needed. All five boxes on Black Fox Pond are on the water's edge, and the plan is to pound at least two metal poles through the ice, using an ice auger, to relocate boxes to open water.

CONCLUSION:

We have a good group of members that are willing to help with this program. In the future we may be trying other areas that look like there is good potential, as we take down inactive boxes.

Sincerely,
Dennis Sawyer