

## **Deering Conservation Commission 2020 Hatch Season-Wood Duck Box Report**

The Deering Conservation Commission (DCC) maintains now 41 Wood Duck nesting boxes throughout the town, primarily on its many conserved lands.

### **PROGRAM UPDATES:**

One box was removed that had been vandalized and will be repaired and relocated. An old box was found at Central Rangeway and will be cleaned out for next season. A strip of wood was placed above the crack on just about all the boxes where the cover touches the back, to act as a water guard because a lot of wood shavings were wet and frozen from rain leaking in the boxes. Mike and I drilled 2 holes in the ice at Black Fox using an ice auger, and relocated 2 boxes off the shore by pounding pipes in the mud and mounting boxes on the pipes. Open water boxes appear to have better results.

### **SUMMARY OF RESULTS:**

This winter every box was checked, and fresh wood shavings placed due to help from most Conservation Commission members, and a few volunteers.

24 boxes were used of the 41 boxes which is a 59% rate of use. There is a loose-leaf notebook at Town Hall with more information and also an album of pictures of each site.

The 2 new boxes placed at Cobbett's last year were both used, after no use there for years. The 1 box at Clifton's Camp was used for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in many years, after moving it higher up on the tree.

Johnson's pond had no usage for years, but 2 boxes were used this year after installing 2 new boxes a couple of seasons ago, and moving 2 last year.

Lead mine upper had 2 boxes used, after none last year.

Wilkin's Cemetery's 1 box was used after many years of no usage. Many branches were cut away last year using a chain saw, that may have blocked the front of the box slightly.

Black Fox again was not used. (5 boxes)

Trum-Hunter's was the only area that had egg dumping this year.

### **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. Next year we have 42 boxes to check.

### **CONCLUSION:**

We have a good group of members and volunteers that are willing to help with this program. In the future we will be replacing a couple of boxes that are borderline acceptable, with newer ones.

Sincerely,  
Dennis Sawyer