

April 20

Dear Mr. Leopold

Thank you for writing. I have altered as many of the duck nest boxes to satisfy you 3"x4" oval entrance as I could, but the wood ducks are back here now and the rest will have to wait till next fall.

You said that you might have copies of your paper on nesting study given in Lansing, so I am writing hoping you might send me one if you can.

I am finding a good number of screech owls using my boxes as roosts in the winter and now some of them have laid eggs and pose a real

competition to the ducks
as occupants of the boxes.

My reaction at the
present is a tolerant one,
and I am trying to provide
enough boxes to satisfy
both types of tenants.

Squirrels don't seem to be
enough of a problem at present;
I may have different
thoughts on both these outsiders
as time goes by.

You warn me of raccoons, and
I must admit that I have
no awareness of predation
problems in my boxes, but
maybe I am not alert to the
proper signs. Since I
stay away from the nesting
sites during the summer and
check the boxes in the fall
my observations are based

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on what I find there. In one box I found two un-hatched eggs along with other duck down and egg shells and I concluded these were sterile eggs (?). Usually I just find down mixed in with the shavings I provide and the remnants of egg shells in the nests. [I take this as a good sign of a successful hatch]. Occasionally I will find down with no shells and this leads me to think the duck was driven off by something.

If you have any comments or signs of predation that I may be naïve about, I would appreciate help.

In any case, I hope
you have a copy of your
paper that you might
send me.

Sincerely,

Donald Joffray
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