

February 1, 1952

Thank you for your interest in the subject of attracting nesting Wood Ducks. Unfortunately I do not have sufficient copies of the reprints of my article "A Study of Nesting Wood Ducks in Iowa" as published in CONDOR last September. However, I give you below quotations from that article which, I believe, will give you the needed information.

"The material is rough, unplanned, 1" lumber, unpainted. Outside dimensions are 12" x 12" with a height of 24" at the front and 25" at the back. The lid is flush at back and sides but projects about 2" at the front. It is held in place by two screen door hooks plus an inner lid which fits loosely into the inside of the box. The entrance hole, 4" in diameter, is located 4" below the lid.

The box is attached to the tree by means of a hanger bolt which is first screwed into the tree. This bolt passes through a hole in the back of the box located opposite the entrance hole. A large iron washer plus a heavy wing nut on the end of the hanger bolt provide a rigid fastening when tightly drawn. On a fast growing tree the wing nut can be loosened a few turns after a year or two if the washer is biting into the back of the box.

Most nesting boxes are hung so that they are in easy reach with a 16' ladder. This appears to be high enough to satisfy the ducks.

A minimum of 4" of decayed vegetation from my compost pile is placed in the bottom of the box so that the ducks can bury their eggs and later form their nests. Leaf litter, or sawdust, will also do but coarse sticks should not be included. The ducks carry no nesting materials."

Frederic Leopold

If you need more help let me know

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