

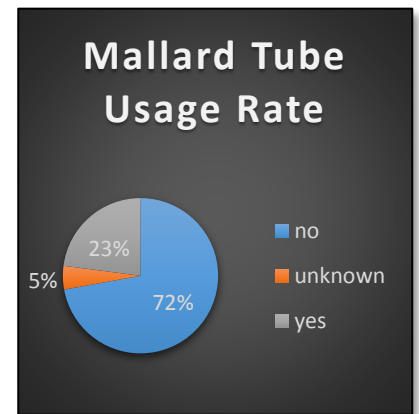
Nesting Report: 2018 Nesting Season

In some areas of Canada, 70% of our wetlands have already been lost or degraded. Every day, we lose another 80 acres of wetland (Ducks Unlimited). The need to protect and maintain waterfowl nesting habitat has never been greater.

Thanks to the help of the dedicated staff and volunteers at Hullett Marsh, the Mallard Tube and Duck Box Nesting Programs continue to thrive and produce fruitful results for ducks and duck hunters alike. The collection of detailed data over multiple nesting seasons has continued to provide us with greater insight into the nesting habits of ducks in the marsh. Last year, the **Hullett Marsh Waterfowlers Association** (HMWA) relocated nesting structures in order to produce better results; these relocations have been a success! This year, we decided to remove consistently unsuccessful boxes and tubes in order to increase our staff and volunteer's efficiency by reducing the amount of time and effort needed to run the programs.

Mallard Tubes

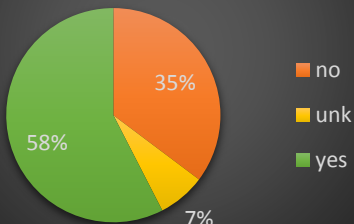
The Friends of Hullett observed a 23% usage rate in our Mallard Tubes during the 2018 nesting season; 13% of the 61 tubes were considered successful nests. As we have now collected 3 nesting seasons worth of data on our Mallard tubes (excluding the Delta Waterfowl tubes that were placed throughout B-Zone last year), we have limited the amount of tubes that were reinstalled back into the marsh during winter. It was decided that the tubes that have not had any usage over the past three years would not be reinstalled for the 2019 nesting season.



Duck Boxes

The Friends of Hullett observed a 58% usage rate in our duck boxes; 80 of 139 were used by waterfowl over the 2018 nesting season and 30 of 139 or 22% of the boxes used were considered successful. Of the boxes that were used, it was found that 50% of the waterfowl usage was from **Hooded Merganser**, **31% by Wood Duck** and **19% used by both species**. A total of 6 boxes have been removed over the winter.

2018 Duck Box Usage Rate



Being a waterfowler means a lot more than just shooting ducks. That's why this past season the volunteers who support the **Youth Waterfowl Clinic** and the staff of the Friends of Hullett decided to make a greater effort to instill these conservation concepts into our youth. We now dedicate an entire day to teaching apprentices the importance and techniques behind maintaining our duck nesting programs.

If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering or would like to take part in the Youth Waterfowl Clinic, please email fohoffice@tcc.on.ca for more information.

