

2017 Nesting Report

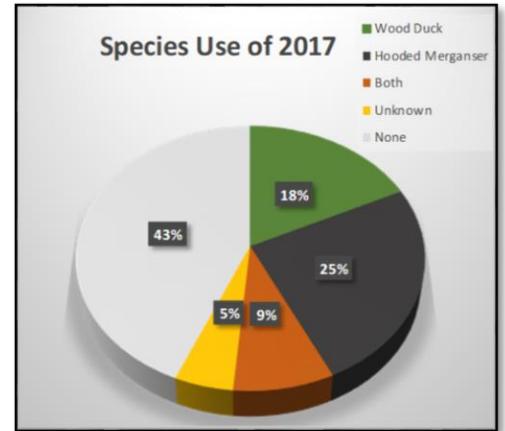
The past year has been an exciting time for the various nesting programs that Hullett maintains, especially for the Duck Box and Mallard Tube nesting programs. This past winter, the marsh saw excellent ice conditions which provided staff and volunteers with ample opportunity to efficiently and effectively maintain both the Boxes and Tubes. During this time, the Hullett Marsh Waterfowlers Association (HMWA) took the opportunity to move 6 Mallard Tubes from unsuccessful nesting locations to areas which have shown a higher nesting rate. This has been done in an attempt to achieve greater overall success with the Mallard Tube program. These relocations could not have been reasonable to attempt without the collection of detailed data over multiple nesting seasons by staff and volunteers. This data has provided us with an invaluable insight into the nesting habits of ducks in the marsh.

Duck Box Success

In the 2017 nesting season, the Friends of Hullett observed a 52% usage rate within the Duck Boxes. There were a total of 141 boxes in the marsh during the 2017 nesting season, 73 of which were used by ducks (either Wood Ducks or Hooded Mergansers).

Mallard Tube Success

In the 2017 nesting season, the Friends of Hullett observed a 21% usage rate within the Mallard Tubes. There were a total of 43 tubes in the marsh during the 2017 nesting season, 9 of which were used by ducks. Mallard Tubes also provide nesting opportunities for both Blue-winged and Green-winged Teal.



Delta Tubes

Along with the current and existing Mallard Tubes, 14 additional Tubes were donated by none-other than Delta Waterfowl. These 14 new tubes, which are slightly different in design compared to the FOH/DUC tubes, are owned by Delta Waterfowl but are cared for and monitored along with the current Mallard Tubes at Hullett; the more, the merrier! The majority of these tubes have been installed in the satellite ponds found in Zone B. This provides the marsh with extensive Mallard Tube coverage and we are hopeful that it will increase the number of ducks in the flyway this season.

The Friends of Hullett and the HMWA are dedicated to increasing nesting success and duck populations within the marsh and will continue to collect data, improve our nesting programs, and foster relationships with like-minded organizations to accomplish these goals.

Chris Ambrose

Hullett Marsh Waterfowlers Association

Board of Director

