



Thank you!

By installing this habitat structure, you are providing an essential nesting area for wildlife in need. Landowners like you play a vital role in providing habitat for wildlife in the Credit River watershed.

Habitat

Hooded mergansers nest in treed areas near shallow water bodies such as small lakes, ponds, beaver-created wetlands, rivers, and streams. They feed on fish, insects, crustaceans and aquatic plants in clear shallow water by diving under the surface and finding prey by sight.

When to Expect Them

Early February to early June

Call

Make very little noise. Females make a rough “*croo-croo crook*” sound to call ducklings.

Habitat Structure Placement

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Location | Forested area near pond, river, or marsh |
| Height off Ground (m) | 2 – 6 |
| Entrance Hole Facing | Towards water |
| Spacing | 30 m apart |
| Attach to | Pole, post, live tree |
| Installation Time | August to January |

Care of the Habitat Structure

Clean out old nest material before the breeding season begins in February. To access the box, turn the latch near the bottom of the box and rotate the moveable panel upward. Add 5 to 10 cm of coarse wood shavings to the bottom of the box.

Important Notes

Nesting females should not be disturbed early in the egg-laying stage or they may abandon the nest.

What Else Can You Do to Help?

Take action to provide natural nesting sites for mergansers on your property, reducing the need for nest boxes. Leave dead standing trees that do not pose a hazard to people to provide shelter and breeding space.

Photo Credit: Credit Valley Conservation