

Caring for your Habitat Structure

WOOD DUCK



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

Wood ducks thrive in wooded wetlands, swamps, freshwater marshes and beaver ponds. Wetlands with plants provide areas for the ducks to hide and feed in.

When to Expect Them

April to August

Call

Sounds like: A high pitched “oo-eeek, oo-eeek” or a sharp, rising “jeeeeeb”

Habitat Structure Placement

Location	Beside or over water
Height off Ground (m)	4 – 6
Entrance Hole Facing	Towards water
Spacing	90 m apart
Attach to	Pole or wooden post
Installation Time	September to March

Care of the Habitat Structure

Clean out old nest material before the breeding season begins in March. 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 wood shavings to the bottom of the box.

Important Notes

Cavity nesting ducks frequently lay their eggs in other duck's nest. To reduce the likelihood of egg dumping, avoid clustering nest boxes together. If you notice unusually large clutches or different coloured eggs in one box, move nest boxes further apart.

What Else Can You Do to Help?

Take action to provide natural nesting sites for wood ducks 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