

Wood Duck Nesting Boxes Aid In Conservation Drive



A WOOD DUCK, one of the most colorful of all the wild ducks, is pictured here taking off from one of the nesting boxes put up over the various regions in an attempt to encourage the return of this scarce duck. Due to his brilliant plumage and beautiful flight the wood duck is a favorite of both bird watchers and gunners.

— Photo by Charles Scott



MEMBERS OF BOY SCOUT TROOP 6 under the leadership of Scoutmaster Kenneth Dykeman last March put up 16 nesting boxes for wood ducks in the Klamath area. Pictured here, left to right, are members of the troop installing a box in the Upper Klamath Lake area: Dykeman, Bob Norris, U.S. Fish and Wildlife; Jim Mohr, Oregon Game Commission; Richard Jasso, Chuck Minch, Larry Branniff, Mike Minch, Jack Hatfield and Robert Jasso.

Grass Inspection Set For Wednesday

The annual grass inspection conducted by members of the Klamath-Lake County chapters of the Order of the Antelope will be held Wednesday, May 14, according to word from Walt McIntyre, grand assistant herd sire for Klamath Falls.

Members attending will meet at the Sprague River Recreation Area east of Bly. Business sessions will begin at 4 o'clock. All members are to bring their own supplies. Cooking facilities will be provided. The tour is for members only, said McIntyre, and will be held rain or shine.

LOOKING AHEAD

HYRUM, Utah (AP) — City Marshal Elmer A. Lauritzen, 71, is ready for retirement. He has designed a collapsible rocking chair.

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ELEVEN LITTLE DUCKLINGS are huddled warmly in their nest as this photo shows. The ducklings are in the bottom of one of the many wood duck nesting boxes installed in the state by various groups. Many boxes have been put up in this area by Boy Scout troops and others.

— Photo by Oregon Game Commission

By KENNETH K. DYKEMAN
Scoutmaster Troop 6, BSA
During the month of March the Boy Scouts of Troop 6 made 16 wood duck nesting boxes out of rough weathered lumber than was salvaged from old shacks and barns around the Klamath Basin. The project was kicked off by a lecture and demonstration by Tom Garratt and Bob Norris of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A pattern box, and wood duck habitat information from the "Game Bulletin" were furnished by Jim Mohr of the Oregon State Game Commission.

heavy undergrowth about 18 feet up. The roofs are made detachable so the game biologist may check results and the inside front must be rough to allow the ducklings a footing to claw up and out the hole for the big drop into their new environment. This drop has never been known to hurt the little ducklings. In fact, at Lloyd and Florence Timmons' resort at Rocky Point, a box was put up a year ago near a gas pump and some of the ducklings fell into the cement with no resulting damage whatever. They just fluttered and waddled off into the water.

Each scout took his turn and put up at least one box. Most of the boxes were put up at Harriman Lodge, Micky Wampler's ranch, and in Shoalwater Bay.

This habitat improvement program is of great value here in the Klamath Basin. After much of the

land was logged over, the old hollow snags were cut to reduce fire hazards, and the Wood Ducks just didn't stop here anymore. Klamath Basin hunters and fly tiers want these colorful ducks back.

In 1956 and 1957, 15 boxes were put up in the Rocky Point area. Ten were used, and about 90 duck-boxes were used by flying squirrels. With the new boxes put up and more Wood Ducks looking for homes, it is hoped that other Boy Scout troops will join Troop 6 in saying "Welcome Woody, to the Klamath Basin."

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Conservation: Gerber Reservoir Offers Outdoor Fun To Youngster

By ROCKY A. EVANS
Sixth Grade, Chiloquin
In the past three years our family has made several fishing trips to Gerber Reservoir. It is located in Klamath County, southeast of Bonanza, in the mountains of Southern Oregon, close to California.

The reservoir serves as a basin to catch melting snow and rain. The bottom of the reservoir is an old stream bed where there are a few springs to add to the water supply.

Gerber Dam is located at the southwestern end of the reservoir. The dam makes it possible to store water to irrigate the valleys below which grow barley, oats, wheat, hay and potatoes. Excellent beef and dairy cattle are raised on these fertile pastures.

Without this dam and reservoir this water would be a stream flowing down into the valley. In the summer this stream would dry up, turning the green pastures to dry, barren prairie land. In the winter it is impossible to grow crops and raise livestock and it is equally impossible to produce anything without irrigation in the summer.

Gerber Reservoir is a good place for recreation. When we go there we drive into a shady campground where there are many birds and squirrels. There is fresh drinking water and very good places for overnight camping.

We unload our boat and get out

our fishing gear to fish for a couple of hours until we get hungry. If we are lucky we have caught several fish. We come back to the campground and spread out our lunch. After we have eaten our lunch we go back out and fish until evening. The fish are so plentiful that anyone can catch them. There are perch, crappie, catfish and bass. We go home tired but happy and thinking about fish for breakfast.

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