

**BRICE PRAIRIE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION
TWENTY YEARS OF HELPING OUR LOCAL WATERFOWL**

WOOD DUCK AND HOODED MERGANSER REPORT

2006 – 2007



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BY

JOHN WETZEL AND MARC SCHULTZ

WWW.BRICEPRAIRIECONSERVATION.ORG

ONALASKA, WISCONSIN

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The past two years have seen a transition for the Brice Prairie Conservation Association's Wood Duck Project. This project is now being coordinated by Marc Schultz and John Wetzel and there has been turn over in the members who are checking wood duck boxes. The analysis of the data has also been changed to some degree. In addition we are in the process of compiling a complete record by number and GPS location of the Club's boxes that are on the landscape.

One important data change is how we have reported the number of houses available for use during a particular year. For 2006 and 2007 this number represents the number of houses that were actually checked and reported on. In past reports this number represented the total number of houses that had been put out that year or in prior years. The 2005 Report indicates that about 700 houses have been put out over time but some of these houses have been lost, replaced or are no longer being checked on a yearly basis (Table 4). This change will let us calculate how many checked houses are actually being used each year and let each checker see how their use rate compares to others as well as an overall average. We would like to see individual use percentages equal 50% or more and the Club's average increase to about 60%. To achieve this rate, boxes that have not been used for three years should be moved to more favorable locations.

In 2006, 47% of the available boxes were used (2006 – Table 1), while only 39% were used in 2007 (2007 – Table 1). Individual percentages ranged from 22 – 72% in 2006 and 14 – 68% in 2007. If our use percentages can be raised, we can also increase our real goal for this project – **the production of ducklings!**

Production for 2006 and 2007 was significantly lower than any year since the mid-1990s. This is a result of the drop in the total number of boxes that were checked for these two years. Even with the reduced number of checked boxes, our duckling production reached 1,125 in 2006 and 1,473 in 2007 (Table 4). As has been the case since 1996, hooded merganser production again exceeded wood duck production in 2006 and 2007 (Tables 2, 3 and 4). If we can get our box use percentage up and a few more houses checked, we'll be able to once again push our production totals over the 2,000 mark in the next few years.

We also need to celebrate the accomplishments that have been achieved over the past 20 years. Beginning with 60 boxes and one successful box that produced 10 wood ducks in 1988 (Table 4), we have hatched over 23,000 ducklings including 8,800 wood ducks and 14,500 hooded mergansers – **a very significant accomplishment!**

**BRICE PRAIRIE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION
2006**

TABLE 1: Wood Duck Boxes – Available and Used

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Boxes</u>		<u>%</u>
		<u>Available</u>	<u>Used</u>	<u>Used</u>
Greg Egan	Dakota, MN	11	7	64
Rick Knuth	Chipmunk C.	11	7	64
Mike Lanquist	BP/Marges' Dikes	9	2	22
Amanda Marco	Girl Scout Camp	15	7	47
Dick Marco	Browns Marsh	14	6	43
Greg Marco	Eleva	64	17	26
Leif Marking	French Is./Gills C./BP	67	32	48
Marc Schultz/JW	Upper Lake Onalaska	82	35	43
West Bank DU	La Crescent, MN	43	30	70
John Wetzel	Van Loon/So. of Tremp.	18	13	72
Totals		334	156	47



A nice clutch in a BPCA house.

**BRICE PRAIRIE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION
2006**

TABLE 2: Wood Duck Production

<u>Name</u>	<u>Nests</u>		<u>%</u>	<u>Eggs</u>		<u>%</u>
	<u>Attempts</u>	<u>Hatched</u>	<u>Hatched</u>	<u>Laid</u>	<u>Hatched*</u>	<u>Hatched</u>
Rick Knuth	7	6	86	92	57	62
Mike Lanquist	2	2	100	20	20	100
Greg Marco	16	11	69	164	125	76
Leif Marking	10	10	100	119	109	92
Marc Schultz/JW	1	1	100	16	13	81
West Bank DU	1	1	100	8	8	100
John Wetzel	1	0	-	3	0	-
Totals	38	31	82	422	332	79

* Hatched and Left Box (Ducklings Produced)



**BRICE PRAIRIE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION
2006**

TABLE 3: Hooded Merganser Production

<u>Name</u>	<u>Nests</u>			<u>Eggs</u>		
	<u>Attempts</u>	<u>Hatched</u>	<u>% Hatched</u>	<u>Laid</u>	<u>Hatched*</u>	<u>% Hatched</u>
Greg Egan	7	3	43	73	17	23
Rick Knuth	1	1	100	16	8	50
Amanda Marco	7	7	100	89	65	73
Dick Marco	6	6	100	67	66	98
Greg Marco	1	1	100	10	8	80
Leif Marking	22	20	91	244	191	78
Marc Schultz/JW	34	22	65	415	226	54
West Bank DU	29	14	48	353	177	50
John Wetzel	12	3	25	179	35	20
Totals	119	77	65	1,446	793	55

*Hatched and Left Box (Ducklings Produced)

**BRICE PRAIRIE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION
2007**

TABLE 1: Wood Duck Boxes – Available and Used

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Boxes</u>		<u>%</u>
		<u>Available</u>	<u>Used</u>	<u>Used</u>
Ben Breidenbach	Black R.-N Hunter's B.	5	1	20
Fred Craig		8	2	25
Al Daus	Tubes - L. Onalaska	7	1	14
Greg Egan	Dakota, MN	19	13	68
Mike Fernholz		25	4	16
Gail Filzen	Hwy 16/Gillette St.	6	3	50
Rick Knuth	Chipmunk Coulee Cr.	16	9	56
Mike Lanquist	BP/Marges' Dikes	9	2	22
Amanda Marco	Girl Scout Camp	15	5	33
Dick Marco	Browns Marsh	14	8	57
Greg Marco	Eleva	60	10	17
Leif Marking	French Is./Gills C./BP	67	29	43
Marc Schultz/JW	Upper Lake Ona	82	34	41
West Bank DU	La Crescent, MN	43	23	54
John Wetzel	Van Loon/ So. of Tremp.	18	9	50
Totals		394	153	39

**BRICE PRAIRIE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION
2007**

TABLE 2: Wood Duck Production

<u>Name</u>	<u>Nests</u>		<u>%</u>	<u>Eggs</u>		<u>%</u>
	<u>Attempts</u>	<u>Hatched</u>	<u>Hatched</u>	<u>Laid</u>	<u>Hatched*</u>	<u>Hatched</u>
Ben Breidenbach	1	1	100	9	9	100
Greg Egan	11	8	73	110	69	63
Mike Fernholz	4	3	75	38	30	79
Rick Knuth	9	9	100	126	95	75
Mike Lanquist	1	1	100	6	6	100
Greg Marco	9	8	89	131	112	85
Leif Marking	12	12	100	166	143	86
Totals	47	42	89	586	464	79

*Hatched and Left Box (Ducklings Produced)



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**BRICE PRAIRIE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION
2007**

TABLE 3: Hooded Merganser Production

<u>Name</u>	<u>Nests</u>			<u>Eggs</u>		
	<u>Attempts</u>	<u>Hatched</u>	<u>% Hatched</u>	<u>Laid</u>	<u>Hatched*</u>	<u>% Hatched</u>
Fred Craig	2	2	100	24	19	79
Al Daus	1	1	100	7	7	100
Greg Egan	2	2	100	33	31	94
Gail Filzen	3	2	67	48	24	50
Mike Lanquist	1	1	100	11	11	100
Amanda Marco	5	4	80	29	26	90
Dick Marco	8	8	100	100	94	94
Greg Marco	1	1	100	11	11	100
Leif Marking	17	17	100	243	225	92
Marc Schultz/JW	34	24	70	363	247	68
West Bank DU	23	17	74	393	258	66
John Wetzel	9	5	56	106	56	53
Totals	106	84	79	1,368	1,009	74

*Hatched and Left Box (Ducklings Produced)

BRICE PRAIRIE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION
TABLE 4: Duckling Production 1988 - 2007

<u>Year</u>	<u>Boxes</u>		<u>Wood Ducks</u> <u>Produced</u>	<u>Mergansers</u> <u>Produced</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Production</u>
	<u>Available</u>	<u>Used</u>			
1988	60	1	10	-	10
1989	100	5	49	-	49
1990	160	13	99	-	99
1991	175	26	169	44	213
1992	225	38	248	95	343
1993	275	51	212	158	370
1994	350	66	320	312	632
1995	400	118	552	483	1,035
1996	425	131	651	577	1,228
1997	500	137	461	672	1,133
1998	535	159	595	912	1,507
1999	550	180	644	1,093	1,737
2000	575	197	776	1,262	2,038
2001	580	182	596	1,134	1,730
2002	600	245	693	1,614	2,307
2003	640	243	704	1,489	2,193
2004	670	231	645	1,366	2,011
2005	675	241	605	1,532	2,137
2006	334	156	332	793	1,125
2007	394	153	464	1,009	1,473
Totals			8,833	14,537	23,370