

Rainbow River Conservation Wood Duck Project

At the RRC Annual Meeting on Saturday Vice President Jerry Rogers reported on the successful 15-year program to install Wood Duck nesting boxes on the Rainbow River. The Rainbow Rivers pure clear water and its marshes and emergent vegetation are ideal habitat for Wood Ducks. In 1994 a project was started to install nest boxes with suitable locations to encourage Wood Ducks to populate the river corridor.



The male Wood Duck has a colorful head the produces “wows” from many visitors to the river as well as providing a mating attraction for the female wood ducks.

In the first year 35 boxes were installed along the river and soon there were 47. Each fall RRC members clear out the old bedding in the next boxes and replace with new cedar wood chip bedding. Repairs are also made were required. This requires navigating a pontoon boat along 4 miles of the 5.3 mile river and standing on a step ladder on the front of the boat to access the pole mounted boxes.



The project has been very successful. The first year 17% of the nests were productive in having successful broods. Since each next produces approximately 9 young ducklings, 47 nests has a potential for 423 young a year. It is likely that over 4000 young wood ducks have come from this Wood Duck project over its 15 year life.



RRC will continue to maintain these boxes and monitor the productivity of this program.

