

Hooded Mergansers Nesting in Wayne County

John E. Staab

On April 30, 1981, while checking woodduck nesting structures at Killbuck Marsh Wildlife Area, I captured a banded (775-84055) a female hooded merganser (*Mergus cucullatus*) incubating 10 eggs.

On June 5, 1981, I rechecked the box and all ten eggs had hatched.

This is a 20 acre unit with about 10% in flooded timber, 15% in buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentales*), 30% in spatterdock (*Nuphar advena*), 30% in arrowhead (*Sagittaria* sp.), 10% in smartweed (*Polygonum* sp.) and 5% in open water.

On May 5, 1981, my wife Marquita and I observed another female with 12 young less than one week old (Southwick) in another unit about one mile away.

This is a 50 acre unit with about 10% in flooded timber, 15% in buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentales*), 5% in spatterdock (*Nuphar advena*), 10% in cattail (*Typha latifolia*) and rushes (*Scirpus* sp.) and 60% in open water.

To the best of my knowledge this is the first recorded nesting of a hooded merganser for Wayne County, Ohio. Kline, Oberholser and Schaffter do not mention them as breeding birds.

Literature Cited

- Kline, D. 1979. Birds of Holmes and Wayne Counties, Ohio. 8 pp.
- Oberholser, H.C. 1896. A preliminary list of the birds of Wayne County, Ohio. Ohio Agricultural Exper. Stat. Bull. Technical Series. Vol. 1, No. 4 pp. 243-253.
- Schaffter, A. 1954. Birds of Wayne County, Ohio. 17 pp.
- Southwick, C. 1953. A system of age classification for field studies of waterfowl broods. J. Wildlife Managment 17:1-8.

John E. Staab
1693 Centerville Road
Shreve, Ohio 44676