A pair of ducks swimming in water

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

Figure 1. Representative photo of Hooded Merganser hen (left) and drake (right) by Jen Goellnitz, Flicker Creative Commons, by-NC2.0. <https://www.flickr.com/photos/goellnitz/33597600618/>

A couple of ducks standing on a log in the water

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

Figure 2. Representative photo of Wood Duck drake (front) and hen (rear) by Rick Leche – Photography, Flicker Creative Commons, by-NC2.0. <https://www.flickr.com/photos/rick_leche/1445384708/>

A wooden box in a forest

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

Figure 3. Representative photograph of a nest box and surrounding habitat at Duck Creek Conservation Area, Puxico, Missouri by Frank J Irovic.

A map of a wetland area

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

Figure 4. Satellite image of Duck Creek Conservation Area, Mingo National Wildlife Refuge, and the surrounding area.

A map of a pool

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

Figure 5. Map of Duck Creek Conservation Area displaying the locations of nest boxes. Lines indicate roads on the area and dots indicate nest box locations.

A group of eggs in a nest

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

Figure 6. Photograph of a Wood Duck nest with a dumped Hooded Merganser egg on top at Duck Creek Conservation Area, Puxico, Missouri by Frank J Irovic. Wood duck eggs are visually smaller, browner, and more oblong where the Hooded Merganser egg is slightly larger, paler, and rounder by comparison.

A person holding a tube to his face

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

Figure 7. Photograph demonstrating a representation of egg candling using a chicken egg by Frank J. Irovic

![A group of eggs with red and yellow colors

AI-generated content may be incorrect.]()

Figure 8. Developmental diagram of embryo development in ducks. Days indicate days since the start of incubation. Hatching occurs at approximately 28 to 29 days. Figure modified from Duck Production and Management, 2022 (Jalaludeen et al. 2022).

A diagram of a graph

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

Figure 9. A plot of the results of NMDS analyses 1 and 2. Orange triangles indicate Wood Duck nests and green circles indicate Hooded Merganser nests. The length and direction of variable lines indicate the strength and direction of the variables impact.

A diagram of a number of objects

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

Figure 10. A plot of the results of NMDS analyses 2 and 3. Orange triangles indicate Wood Duck nests and green circles indicate Hooded Merganser nests. The length and direction of variable lines indicate the strength and direction of the variables impact.

A graph with numbers and points

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

Figure 11. A plot displaying the number of eggs dumped in nests by section. The point labeled as 7/65 indicates two separate wood duck nests in boxes E7 and E65 and the point labeled as 14/44 indicates one Wood Duck nest in Box S14 and one Hooded Merganser nest in Box S44.

A graph of different colored dots and numbers

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

Figure 12. A plot of the number of hatched eggs per nest divided by section and species. Orange triangles indicate Wood Duck nests and green circles indicate Hooded Merganser nests.

A graph with different colored lines

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

Figure 13. A plot of the depth in meters for the water nearest to each box by section during the study period. The line indicates the range while the dot indicates the mode.

A graph with different colored lines

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

Figure 14. A plot of the width in meters for the water nearest to each box by section during the study period. The line indicates the range while the dot indicates the mode.