

Arnold

Ducks in the Forest: What We Know (and What We Wish We Knew)

Although the forest region comprises about 40% of Minnesota's total landscape and a vast majority of the state's wetland acreage, surprisingly little is known about waterfowl use of forested habitats, especially during the breeding season. In this talk, I'll summarize what we currently know about breeding waterfowl in northern Minnesota, including information on breeding distributions and breeding success. Most of the data on breeding success is 30 to 40 years old, or else restricted to cavity-nesting species (e.g. wood ducks and goldeneyes). I'll summarize some recent work on ducks nesting in forested habitats elsewhere in the Great Lakes States and in the Aspen Parkland of Canada, and conclude with a plea for new research on duck use of forested habitats in northern Minnesota.

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