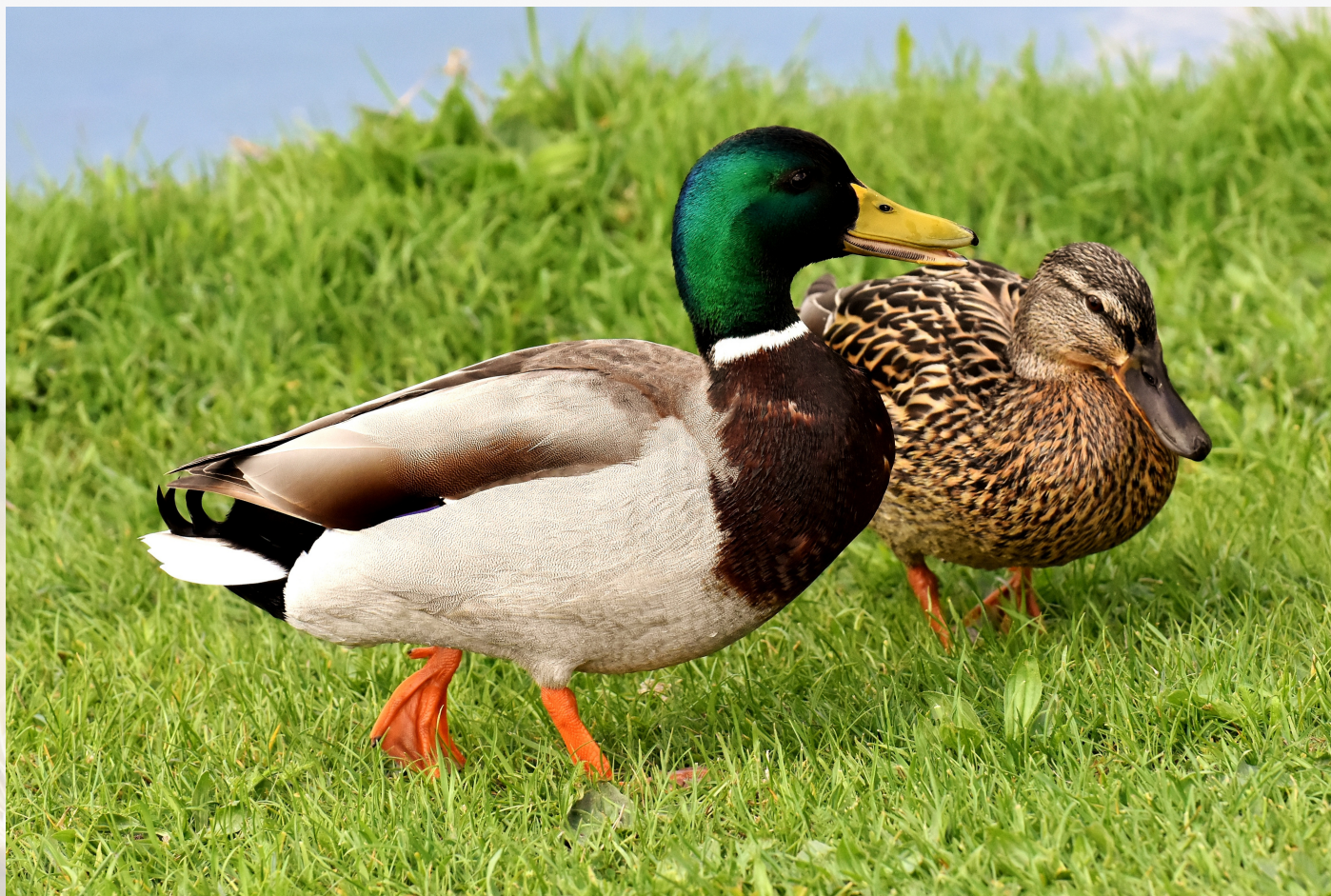




HOW TO BUILD DUCK NEST ROLLS



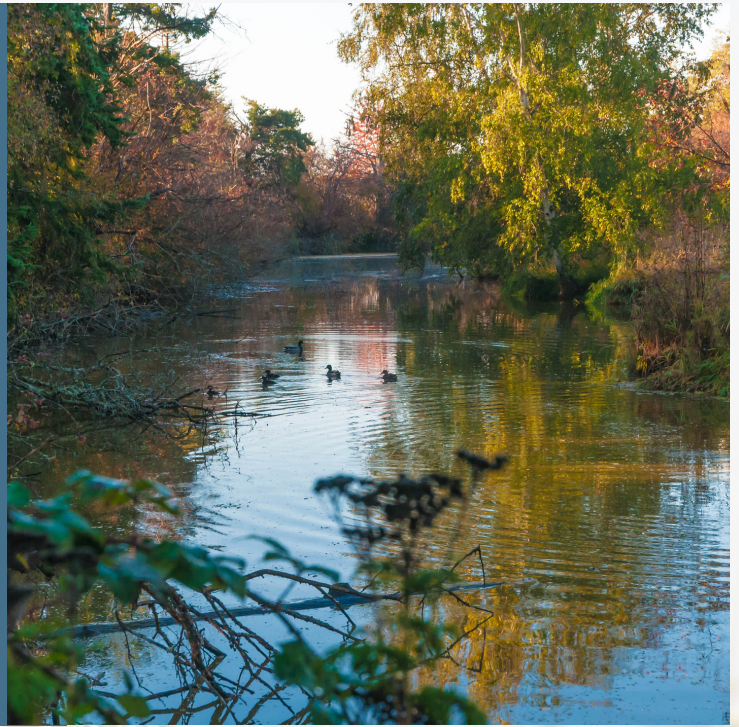
WHY BUILD DUCK NEST ROLLS

Mallard nests are often destroyed before the eggs have chance to hatch, through predation, trampling by livestock or disturbance from walkers. The success rates from ground nests can be quite low. Providing off-ground duck nest rolls/tubes is a fantastic way to help nesting birds and can vastly improve the duck's breeding success by providing safe place to lay eggs. Duck nest rolls also provide security and protection from the elements.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

It is important to clear out ponds that are overgrown with weeds and reeds but don't clear them all out.

Proper pest and predator control is also important. Larsen traps should be carefully positioned around the pond.



DON'T LOCATE THE TUBES OVER FAST-FLOWING OR TIDAL WATER.

THE DUCKLINGS WILL NEED TO FIND FOOD CLOSE BY WHEN THEY FLEDGE; REED BEDS, WEEDS AND COVER HOLD THE INSECTS THEY NEED.

DON'T POSITION TUBES WHERE PREDATORS COULD ACCESS.

SPREAD THE TUBES OUT – PREFERABLY, AT LEAST 20M APART.

POSITION THE TUBE 90° TO THE PREVAILING WIND & ENSURE TUBE CAN'T SWIVEL

IF DUCKS HAVEN'T APPEARED, TRY MOVING AROUND FOR THE NEXT SEASON.

MALLARD WILL OFTEN RETURN TO TRY TO BREED IN THE SAME SITES THEY WERE RAISED; PLACING MORE TUBES OVER A PERIOD OF YEARS CAN BE VERY SUCCESSFUL.

REPLACE THE HAY EACH YEAR IN FEBRUARY.



MATERIALS

- 7' x 3' foot section of wire mesh
- Cable Ties
- Hay
- Pliers/Sledgehammer
- Scaffold or timber pole about 7' long but will depend on depth of water. Aim to have it 2 clear foot above the water
- Metal cradle or T-bar to hold roll

HOW TO CONSTRUCT

- Roll the wire on a flat surface extending to 34 inches. Apply a cable tie at this point to make a 30cm diameter cylinder.
- Over the remaining flat wire, spread an even covering of hay approx. 2in thick, ensuring there are no gaps. Pack the hay tightly.
- Continue rolling the wire (a bit like a swiss roll) creating an outer cylinder enclosing a layer of hay
- Once the cylinder is formed, secure with cable ties at various points and cut off excess from ties.
- Once you are happy with it,
- insert the tube into a metal cradle.
- There are numerous ideas for cradles
- (see resources for more info)
- Put some loose hay into the tube to give a base layer of bedding as the duck won't take materials in. She will pull hay out of the roll as well to make a nest for the eggs.
- Once the tube is made, drive a post into the pond leaving at least 2 foot above the water. Attach tube to post.



RESOURCES

<https://youtu.be/7Rklo2zx-sw>

<https://youtu.be/63vQu8BWoqU>

<https://rb.gy/cu3cam>

<https://rb.gy/anvpiy>

