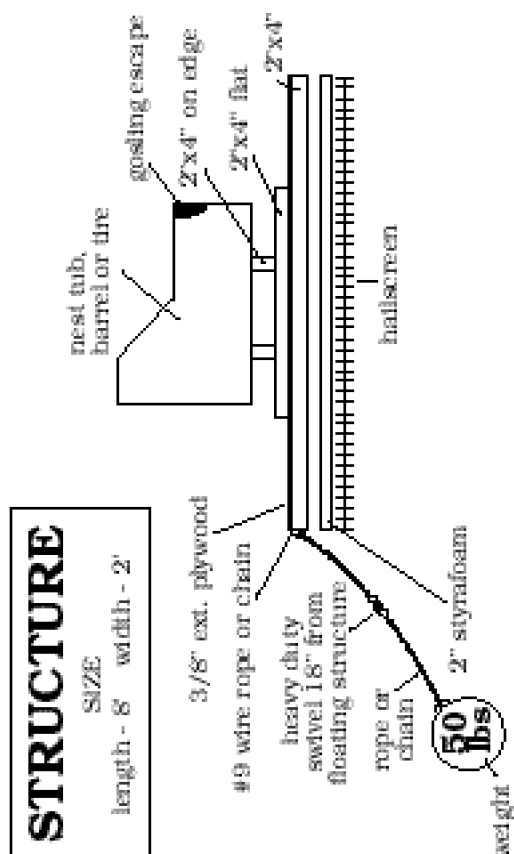


The floating nest structure can be used in watershed lakes and reservoirs where there is extreme water level fluctuations. The platform is 2 X8 ft. held in place by a length of one half inch nylon rope, #9 wire, or strong chain attached to an anchor of about 50 lbs. It is critical that a good swivel be located in the anchor line about 18 inches from the structure. The structure should be placed in the water so that it can swing freely with the wind and yet come no closer than 20 ft. from shore. The nest structure should be made available to geese as soon as water areas are completely free of ice, and removed from the water as soon as the nesting season ends, in mid June or early July. Having the structure out of the water during the freezing conditions of winter will prolong the life of the structure considerably. Nesting material should be replaced each year.



Without annual maintenance goose nest structures will fail to produce young and in some cases result in frozen eggs due to lack of insulating nesting material. It is critical that tubs are checked annually to ensure that they are in good condition and that adequate nest material is present. The best time to service pole structures is during cold mid-winter periods when the ice is thick enough to safely allow individuals to walk and stand around the structure.

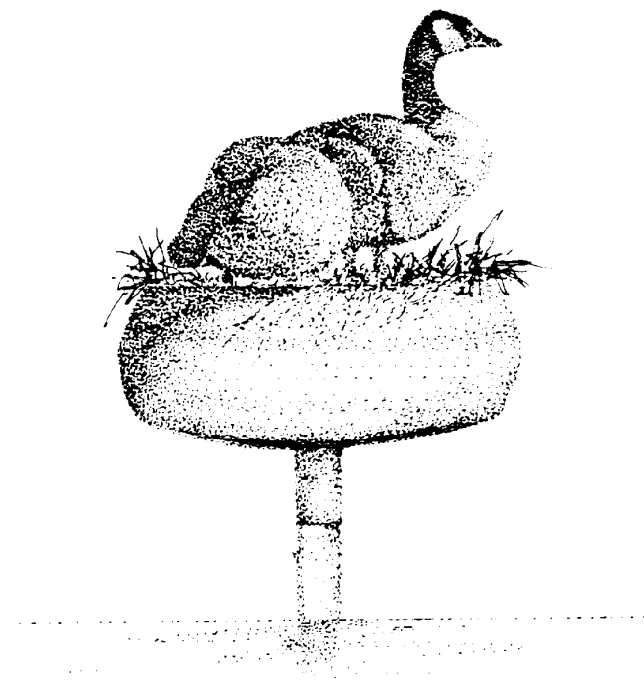
Floating nest structures should be inspected annually when they are out of the water, and weak or deteriorating parts replaced or repaired. The most common problem with floating structures is failure of the anchor line. The line and swivel should be inspected closely to ensure that they are in good condition.



Kansas Dept. of Wildlife & Parks
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Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs described herein is available to all individuals without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or handicap. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to Office of the Secretary, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, 900 Jackson St., Suite 502, Topeka, KS 66612. 4/99

NESTING STRUCTURES



FOR CANADA GEESE



Since their near extinction in the 1920's, the restoration of giant Canada geese is a success story that has few equals in the history of wildlife management. The return of the giant Canada goose nesting population in Kansas was begun in 1980 by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. The original effort was to establish nesting geese in the eastern one-third of Kansas, particularly in the Flint Hills, Marias des Cygnes Valley south of Kansas City, and the Strip Pit areas in southeastern Kansas. The ultimate plan for the Canada goose restoration program is to establish populations statewide.

This brochure explains how you, as a landowner, sportsman, and/or outdoor lover, can help make this goose restoration project a success by constructing and installing nest structures.

Canada geese start looking for nest sites as soon as the ice melts. Sometimes as early as the mid-January.

Good nesting habitat for Canada geese is a water area of one acre or larger (the larger the better) in mowed or grazed grasslands with very few trees. Islands are preferred nesting sites and should be included in the design of future ponds. Islands can be constructed by cutting a ditch between peninsula and mainland, then piling the dirt on the new island. Construction is simplest in the fall when ponds are low.

If island construction is not feasible, goose production success can be improved by constructing and installing artificial nest structures.

A good rule of thumb is to place one nest structure for ponds five acres or less, each structure should be at least 100 yards apart.

One of the most practical homemade nest structures is the large round bale. The best time to place the bale is during the winter when thick ice is available to move the bale away from shore. The bale should be set on end in 1- to 3-ft. of water as far from shore as possible.

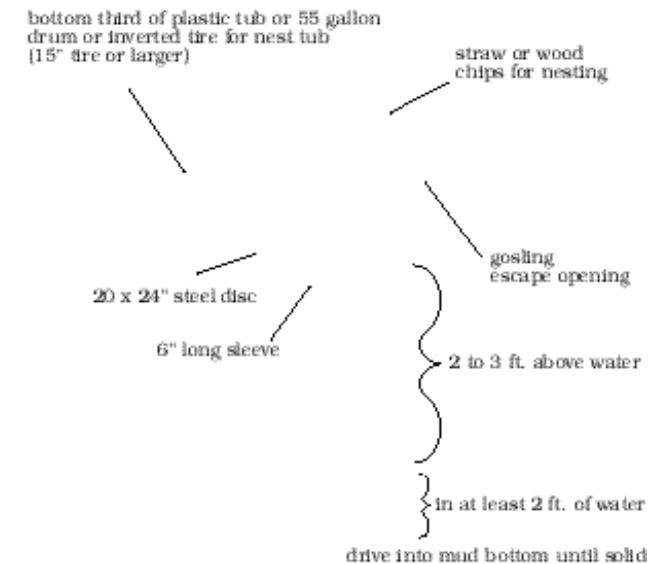
Another proven structure is the pole nest. The nesting "tub" can be made from a number of materials. It can be built by cutting a 55 gallon plastic or steel drum into thirds, which yields two nests from the drum ends. Make sure the



BIG ROUND BALE

drums are clean before using. To allow drainage, five 1/2 inch holes should be drilled in the drum bottom.

Another good long lasting "tub" is a 15-inch or larger tire. The tire cannot be steel belted. Cut one side wall of tire off and then invert the tire so it is inside out. An opening in the side of the "tub" (4x6-inch) should be cut



POLE NEST

for the goslings to escape. To a 20- to 24-inch disc blade or heavy metal plate, weld a 6-inch long, 2 3/8-inch diameter pipe as a sleeve for the stand pipe. Bolt the nesting "tub" to the disc. Then, take a pipe that will fit into the sleeve (2 3/8-inch outside diameter) and drive it into the pond bottom about 3 ft. Locate the stand pipe approximately 20 ft. from shore in at least 2 ft. of water. Make certain the pipe driver does not flair the stand pipe end so it will fit into the sleeve. The standpipe must be long enough to elevate the nest at least 1 ft. above the pond's spillway elevation. Finally, after the structure is up, fill it with hay, straw or wood chips and pack the bedding in tightly so the wind is less likely to blow it out. Nesting material should be removed and replaced with fresh each year.