



# **Duck Rescue**

**Sponsored by the Green Bay Duck Hunters  
Association Established 1958**



## **“Orphan City” aka Bay Beach Sanctuary**

Here, “found” ducklings are brought by the public, where they are cared for and hopefully matched up with a freshly hatched brood and hen, who readily “adopt” the orphan(s) and join one “bigger” family.



**The City of Green Bay's Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary provides open water and food for resting waterfowl, and shelter for orphans.**

**Mike Reed from the Wildlife Sanctuary was looking for an organization to respond to the many duck rescue calls the Sanctuary would receive. The "Duck Rescue" was formed for that response.**



**The “Duck Rescue” presentation is a tribute to the original “Duck Rescuers” Ted Thyrion and the late Milt Geyer who rescued from 1980 to 1998.**

( DUCK PLUCKERS )  
TED. THYRION - MILT. GEYER  
RESCUERS OF YOUNG DUCKS  
1985 - 1993  
TOTAL - 1,025  
MOTHERS - 90%  
EGGS INCUBATED - 78



**Ted and Milt record of how many ducks they rescued for some of their years. Incubation continues today at the wildlife sanctuary for those eggs that do not hatch.**



**Nest sites are called into “Duck Central” - Joe Loehlein**

**Nest sites are usually found when homeowners are doing spring cleanup. This site is very typical with the nest tucked under a yew. The typical ground material is cedar wood chips (hides hen’s scent?) or stones that hold the heat of the sun. Nests are on east, south, or west sides of buildings.**



**When looking for a duck nest you may need to look real hard. The leaves and cedar offer a great place to hide!**



**This nest was rescued on July 18, 2008. The hen will lay 1-2 eggs each day. The eggs will take 26 days to hatch. Again notice how difficult it is to spot this nest.**



However, there are ducks that have not taken duck nest seminars!

In the crutch of this tree is a mallard nest! Regardless of how she feels she is NOT a wood duck! She is still a mallard!

There is a related true tale story of another mallard nest that was dropping ducklings from a tree “nest” about 40 feet up!

A local hen was also found nesting on a sleeping bag, left out on a 2<sup>nd</sup> floor balcony of a local college dormitory , where she raised her young while gaining an education!



## Current Rescued Ducks by Year

1998	223	
1999	383	
2000	185	
2001	369	
2002	550	
2003	457	
2004	718	
2005	444	
2006	473	
2007	509	
2008	704	<b>TOTAL</b>
	<b>5,017</b>	





### **Checking a nest site!!!**

This nesting hen chose the busy Cherry St Parking Lot to nest and hatched the Fourth of July Morning. They were rescued by Annarose and her PaPa just in the nick of time before the festivities began!!!



### **A Nice Clutch**

These eggs are nicely nestled into a fluff of down, a sure sign that incubation is under way, the eggs will need to be monitored daily.



**When the nest has been “clutched” for 26-28 days some eggs will start to show cracks. The cracks indicate the eggs will hatch in 24-48 hours.**



**When the ducklings have been hatched it is time to gather the family. The first step is to grab the hen. She will attempt to defend her nest by “nipping at a rescuer's hand. When she nips, grab her from behind the neck, covering the wings and pinning them to the body and put her in the catch trap.**



### **In the shadow of Lambeau Field...**

This hen nested within walking distance of Lambeau so she wouldn't miss a game ! Talk about sports minded females! Here the brood is rounded up alongside the building-a natural "fence".



**Once the hen is in the trap another rescuer would pull the string to lower the trap door. Notice the smaller metal cage next to the trap. The ducklings may not go into the trap with hen duck. So, after mama is in the large trap rescuers pick up each of the ducklings and place them in the trap.**





### **All together and ready to go!**

A successful trapping has occurred as the rescuers' guided the hen and ducklings into the catch cage. This is where the hen gets some special jewelry.



## **Banding**

Operating under the authority of the Bird Banding Laboratory by special permit, a rescuer “bands” a hen mallard before release. Each band has its own unique number. The Bird Banding Center, located at the USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, carefully monitors the banding and return of bands which provides data and a unique history on banded waterfowl. It's important to report all bands located to the center.



## **Duck rescue is a family affair!!!**

Rescuer Joe Loehlein , aided by Annarose Swanson rounded up 10 ducklings that had fallen into a large parking lot storm sewer. Duck rescue training starts early!



The entire family is released at one of the many natural wetlands sights. The door is opened slowly, the hen is the lead with the ducklings to follow her calls. It is recommended that a blanket be placed around the top and three sides and that the opening is up against tall vegetation to avoid a “panicked” hen who up and flies away.



**Into the sunset!**

And sometimes a “Thank You”





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