

VERTEBRATE STUDIES

Heron Nesting – Greenwoods Conservancy

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The Woods Hole area (Figure 1) has been the site of nesting activity of the great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*) for a number of years. Peak activity recorded in 2002 of three occupied nests has declined to that of a single occupied nest in 2006. Physical deterioration of older nests has progressed to the point at which they are barely recognizable as such.

Rookeries tend to be maintained over a number of years when appropriate nest trees remain extant. Decline in use may result from loss of the nesting population in or in transit to and from wintering areas.

The apparent decline in usage at Greenwoods may in fact be a matter of re-location within the property. Several heron nests were noted in the northern most pool of a beaver pond complex south of the Peterson compound. How long activity in this site has been maintained is not currently known. Of particular interest is the pictorial evidence submitted by Matthew Albright of a Canada goose, *Branta canadensis*, on one of the heron nests. Further observation of the latter nest site is anticipated in 2007.

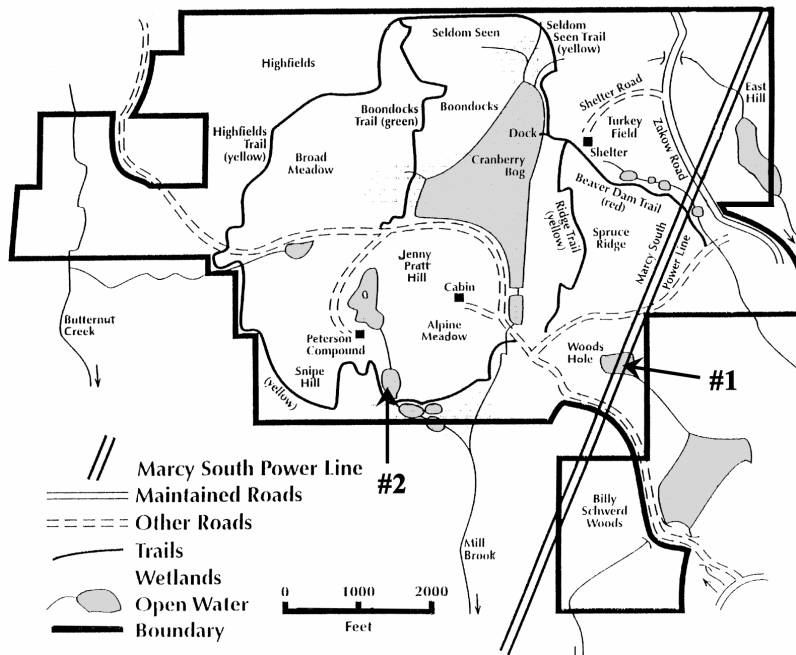


Figure 1. Greenwoods Conservancy, Burlington, NY. Site #1 is Woods Hole, #2 is the site of newer heron nesting, and the site of a Canada goose nesting on a heron nest.

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