

# What to look and listen for to know your ducks...

Habitat, action, color, shape and voice — all help distinguish one species from another.

Shallow marshes and creeks normally attract few divers; large, deep bodies of water are not usual feeding grounds of puddle ducks.

The maneuvers of a flock in the air can help indicate the species. Mallards, pintails, and widgeons form loose groups; teals and shovellers flash by in small bunches; mergansers often appear in single file; canvasbacks shift from waving lines to temporary V's; red-heads "boil up" in short flights from one end of a lake to the other.

Closer up, individual silhouettes can show large heads or small, broad bills or narrow, fat bodies or slender, long tails or short. Trained observers also identify ducks from the wing beats; they may be fast or slow, short rapid flutters or long strokes.

At close range, color areas can be positive. Depending on light conditions they may or may not appear in their true color, but their

size and location are a key to the identity.

The sound of wings can be as important as that of voice. The pinions of goldeneyes whistle in flight; the swish of wood ducks is different from the steady rush of canvasbacks. Not all ducks quack; many whistle, squeal or grunt. Experience can teach you the difference.

## PINTAIL

Found in every flyway, most plentiful in the west.

Extremely graceful, fast flier, fond of zig-zagging from great heights before leveling off for a landing. Equally agile on land; visits croplands to glean food.

Drakes whistle; hens have a hoarse quack.

## MALLARDS

Most common duck. Extremely hardy, wintering as far north as it can find open water.

Flocks often leave the water in early morning and late afternoon

to feed in nearby harvest fields, returning to marshes and creeks to spend the night.

The flight is not particularly rapid; voice of the hen is a loud quack; of the drake, a lower-pitched kwek-kwek.

## BLACK DUCK

A bird of the eastern States, using the Atlantic and Mississippi flyways.

Shy and wary, regarded as the wariest of all ducks.

Often seen in company of mallards, but along the Atlantic coast frequents the salt marshes and the ocean much more than mallards.

Flight is swift; usually small flocks, in V's or angular lines.

Voice is duplicate of mallards.

## GADWALL

Not plentiful anywhere; greatest numbers in the Central flyway, fewest in the Atlantic flyway.

The only puddle duck with white in the speculum.

Small, compact flocks fly swiftly, usually in a direct line. Wing beats are rapid.

Drakes whistle and kack-kack; hens quack like a mallard hen, but softer.

## WIDGEON

Nervous birds, quick to take alarm. Agile fliers, usually in compact flocks. Flight is fast, irregular, with many twists and turns. White belly and forewing very conspicuous in the air.

When feeding, often accompanies diving ducks and robs them of food brought up from depths beyond the widgeon's capability.

Drakes whistle; hens utter a loud kaow and a lower qua-awk.

## SHOVELER

Early fall migrant; usual flight is steady and direct. When startled, the small flocks fly erratically, twisting and turning like teal.

Greatest numbers occur in the Central and Pacific flyways.

Aquatic animal life forms a

third of its diet.

Drakes call woh-woh and took-took; hens have a feeble quack.

## WOOD DUCK

Found in all flyways; most numerous in the Mississippi flyway.

Frequents wooded streams and ponds; perches in trees.

Flies through thick timber with speed and ease, and feeds readily on acorns, berries, and grapes on the forest floor.

Flight is swift and direct; flocks are usually small.

Drakes have a hoo-w-ett, often in flight; hens have a cr-r-ek when frightened.

## GREAT SCAUP

Flock movement is rapid, in fairly compact formation; over feeding areas they normally fly under hundred-foot altitude. The wings produce a loud rustling sound.

Longer light strip showing through the wing is the best way to distinguish from the lesser scaup in the air.

Frequents the largest bodies of water, where it rafts up during the day.

Drakes utter a discordant scaup, scaup; hens are usually silent.

## COMMON GOLDENEYE

Distinctive wing-whistling sound in flight has earned the name of Whistlers.

(See Ducks, Page 12)

## Waddell's Waterfowl Hunts based in Eagle Lake

Waddell's Waterfowl Hunts take place in Eagle Lake, 60 miles west of Houston and 150 miles east of San Antonio.

Davis Waddell, owner and guide, has lived and hunted this prairie land for over 40 years.

Our hunting grounds include

rice fields and roost ponds especially prepared for migrating waterfowl. All of this is just minutes away from the town of Eagle Lake.

Our guarantee to you, the hunter, is to have an enjoyable hunting experience on some of the most productive hunting grounds

in Texas.

My objective is to show you a memorable and enjoyable hunting experience.

In the past, I have made many lifelong friends hunting the prairies of Eagle Lake and hope to add your hunt to this list.

I am the third generation of Waddell hunters and feel confident with my knowledge and experience of waterfowl to produce top quality hunts.

I'm looking forward to meeting you.

Davis Waddell



## Davis Waddell

## Prairie Waterfowl Hunts

### Hunting the Eagle Lake and Garwood Prairies in Texas

#### Available Guided Hunts:

##### ✓ Goose & Duck:

- \*Guide, Dog, Decoys and Parkas Furnished
- \*Minimum Four (4) Hunters
- \*Monday through Friday: \$100 per person
- \*Weekends: \$125 per person

##### ✓ Teal:

- \*Camouflage attire suggested
- \*Guide and Decoys Furnished
- \*Minimum three (3) hunters
- \*Monday through Friday & Weekends \$75 per person

##### ✓ Pheasant & Chukar:

- \*Afternoon only
- \*Minimum three (3) hunters (if less, same charge)
- \*5 Pheasant: \$125
- \*8 Chukar: \$125
- \*Combo/3 pheasant & 4 chukar: \$150

##### ✓ Sandhill Crane:

- \*TPW permit required (No cost: 800-792-1112)
- \*Minimum three (3) hunters
- \*Monday through Friday & Weekends \$125

#### General Information:

##### ✓ Suggested Clothing:

- \*Rubber Boots, Waders
- \*Camouflage Clothing
- \*Cold Weather Clothing
- \*Rain Gear

##### ✓ Transportation:

- \*Your responsibility

##### ✓ Accommodations:

- \*Available in Eagle Lake
- \*Made upon your request

##### ✓ Guns & Ammo:

- \*Steel shot only
- \*Available in Eagle Lake
- \*Bring your favorite gun
- \*12 gauge and larger suggested

##### ✓ Sporting Goods:

- \*Available in Eagle Lake

##### ✓ Bird Processing & Storage:

- \*Available through Prairie Waterfowl Hunts

#### More Information:

##### ✓ Reservations

- \*Make in advance
- \*Confirmed with 100% deposit
- 409-234-2881 (Home)
- 409-758-4193 (Mobile)
- 409-234-2546 (Farris 1912), or

##### ✓ Cancellation Policy:

- \*30 Day notice (100% refund)
- \*10 Day notice (50% refund)

##### ✓ Licenses:

- \*TEXAS RESIDENTS:
- \*License
- \*State Stamp
- \*Federal Stamp
- \*OUT OF STATE
- \*Five (5) Day Permit
- \*State Stamp
- \*Federal Stamp

##### ✓ Sandhill Crane Permits:

- \*No charge but must be obtained prior to arrival. Contact Texas Parks & Wildlife: Phone 1-800-792-1112; or write: 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744

409-234-2881 (Home)

409-234-2546 (Farris 1912)

409-758-4193 (Mobile)

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