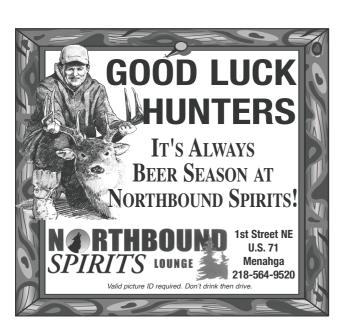
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LARGE GAME REGISTRATION HIDE DROP-OFF **Akeley Cenex, Lakes Area Co-op** Open Daily 6 am - 9 pm • 218-652-2665 440 Broadway East (Hwy 34/64), Akeley CENEX * Gas * Snacks * Propane *







Duck hunting for beginners

Get good Camouflage.

The first gear that you should invest in is the cam-

Now, when it comes to choosing the right camouflage, you'll need to consider the environment you'll be hunting in. For instance, for a grassy area, selecting a greenish/grassy camouflage will be ideal, whereas, for flooded timber or woodlands, you'll need a brownish/bark like camouflage to be concealed.

Remember, we are talking about waterfowl hunting, which means you can't remain dry during the sport and thereby need to invest in waders for insulation purpose. Choose a breathable wader so you can layer the clothes under it.

Find an

experienced partner

As I have already mentioned above, to be able to master the sport truly, you'll need to observe experts doing it. So, while you are planning your first duck hunt season, make sure you find an experienced hunter (there must be someone in family or friends you can team-up with) who knows the rules of the games and has a hunting license.

Find the Birdies,

Even with the best equipment and killer shots, you can't make the kills when there are no birdies around. Thereby, scouting is an integral part of waterfowl hunting. You need to find the place where birds like to lounge in. Take your experienced partner along to scout the area and look out for roost (that's the place where ducks sleep at night).

Seek Permission before camping

Duck hunting without permission of landowners isn't just bad manners, but it is also a serious offense with potential criminal proceedings. Thereby, once you have spotted an ideal location to camp, make sure you look out for the landowners and ask for their permission. If the site is public property, you can also lease or buy the

Get your shotgun.

Once you are done with all the prerequisite checks, it's time to invest in the tion, because a dozen or your gun. A shotgun should weapon. A 12-gauge shot- more afloat ducks don't re- seamlessly follow your body gun is by far the most wide- ally sit idly and your best physique. Ideally you should ly used and potent weapon for a duck hunt. However, I know hunters who like to go with a 20-gauge weapon. However, as a beginner, you don't need to go for the larger gun. Personally, I will recommend going with a semi-automatic shotgun, for its far easier to handle and make the kill as a beginner.

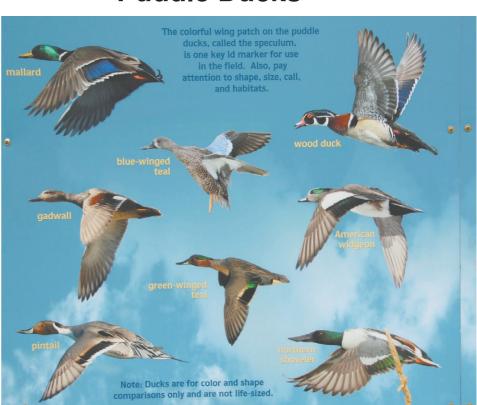
Choosing a Decoy

By now, you must have been aware of the significance of decoys. So, I think it's time we see how you can select the best decoys. Now first things first, never, I repeat never go for the priciest decoys with a guarantee of

Diving Ducks



Puddle Ducks



painted jugs. Since this will be your first waterfowl hunt dozen. Believe me, there are companies like RedHead who offer a dozen duck decoys in less than \$50.

One aspect that does mat- your body ter here is the decoy movebet is to imitate as precisely as possible just ensure birdies that the water is safe to lounge in. Robo Duck is one such movable electronic decoys that are able to create consistently.

Get It From Here Master your Call

Duck calling is an amazing experience that will help you connect more deeply with the sport. However, to be able to truly master your call, you'll need much efforts and practice. You need to know how loud or soft you need to make your call, when to give your call or when to not give out calls. One great way to understand the art of duck calling is by watching online tutorials, easily accessible on You-Tube.

Duck hunt shooting tips

Now that we are done with decoy tips, it's time to look at some sharp shooting practices. To be honest, shooting is where the fun begins in waterfowl hunting. Ok, let me just say that shooting is the epitome of the duck hunting sport and everything else that leads up to this including decoys, blinds, scouting, etc. are supplementary. Believe me, there are few other accomplishments that will give you a stronger sense of joy and pride as a clean kill.

But, how exactly you can make that clean kill? What's the secret of scoring high in waterfowl hunting? How can you actually transform the misses into hits? What do you need to increase your accurate shooting skills?

No one is a born master, we all need to practice any skill to master it. As far as shooting is concerned, its mastery comes with three fundamental traits, confidence, concentration and coordination. You might think shooting is all about mechanical precision, how-

getting more kills. Believe ever, in fact, it's more about it or not but I know hunt- instinctive than mechanical. ers that have made count- It's one of the skills that less kills with nothing but you'll master with coaching and generous practice.

Ok, enough talking. Let's game, theirs is no need to go just jump over to some best with pricey full body ducks duck hunting shooting tips. that cost over \$100 for half a Follow this effective duck hunting shooting tips and you'll definitely pull more kills.

Choose a shotgun that fits

Before you even think of ment. If you got the money, shooting birdies, you need invest in decoys with mo- to make a smart choice for take your weapon to a gunsmith and have him make the stock adjustments, so it suits your frame naturally.

Practice Preseason

I know many duck huntcurrents and move wings ers who never practice shooting waterfowl hunting season and then actually have the audacity to complain about their misses. Remember, hunting needs practice and rhythm and you need to sync your body and mind with the weapon before you can actually make the kill.

Preseason shooting practice can easily sync your mind, body with the weapon. I prefer to practice preseason shooting at the dove fields, as it ideally replicates the waterfowl hunting conditions including the angles and distances to shoot. A week or so preseason shooting practice in dove fields is often enough for me to get back my rhythm and get a feel of shooting.

Take your aim. don't be in a hurry

When I took my kid for waterfowl shooting for the first time, I immediately feel his sense of urgency or anxiety to shoot. He seemed to be too fretful about ducks getting out of range of his gun that he shoot at will without thinking much about aim.

(Continued on Page 7)

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