mmercial blinds to their boats, instantly turning scouting craft into hunting platforms. These usually include woven mats, netting or some other camouflaged material attached to a folding frame. Some form a pyramid for total concealment. As birds approach, drop one panel and begin firing.

Running a boat equipped with a pop-up blind, sportsmen can stop practically anywhere that looks good, throw out a few decoys, raise the blind and begin hunting in minutes. If they see birds landing in another location, they can quickly pick everything up and move to the new spot. Some people might hunt several places in one day.

Without a fancy commercial blind, boat hunters can simply pull their craft into high reeds and cover it with native vegetation. In the more timbered sections of the delta, sportsmen can add palmetto fronds and Spanish moss to help camouflage a boat. In the forested habitat, hunters can get out of the boat and hide behind trees or other natural concealment.

Unfortunately, the best hunting spots don’t always come with good concealment. However, sportsmen can easily set up many portable blind options in minutes. Camouflaged netting or woven grass mats stapled to stakes make fabulous, lightweight and easy to erect blinds.

Sometimes, hunters need to go looking for birds. Federal laws prohibit sportsmen from shooting migratory birds from boats under power, but hunters can shoot out of human-powered craft like canoes or kayaks, even a motorboat with the engine off and the forward momentum ceased.

Periodically, stop paddling to listen for quacking, splashing or other sounds that could indicate waterfowl activity. Scan the waters for telltale movement, wakes or anything unusual. Floating feathers could mark good bird hiding places. Use islands, high reeds or other available cover to sneak up on ducks. When coming around bends, cautiously take the inside curve to remain as hidden as possible. Ducks might explode from anywhere at any time without warning.

When jumping ducks from boats, sportsmen can work alone or in teams. For teams, designate one shooter to sit in the bow and one person in the stern to act as spotter and paddler. Glide along as silently as possible, easing paddles into the water. Jumping ducks in teams makes an excellent way to let smaller children hunt. While paddling, sportsmen might also shoot coots, gallinules or other game in season.

Hunters without boats can try jumping birds by walking along upland streams, isolated ponds, ditches or sloughs. Many tiny wooded waters hold mallards and wood ducks.

Waterfowlers can never find a better spot to hunt than where ducks already want to land anyway.