# **Duck hunting for beginners**

### Get good Camouflage.

The first gear that you should invest in is the camouflage.

Now, when it comes to choosing the right camouflage, you'll need to consider the environment you'll

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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.

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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 weapon. A 12-gauge shotgun is by far the most widely 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

HEARTLAND AREA HUNTING GUIDE - Page 6 • October 18, 2023 getting more kills. Believe to make a smart choice for Calm your nerves and sup-

it or not but I know hunt- your gun. A shotgun should ers that have made count- seamlessly follow your less kills with nothing but body physique. Ideally, you painted jugs. Since this will should take your weapon to be your first waterfowl hunt a gunsmith and have him game, theirs is no need to go make the stock adjustments, with pricey full body ducks so it suits your frame natuthat cost over \$100 for half a rally. dozen. Believe me, there are **Practice Preseason** companies like RedHead who offer a dozen duck decoys in less than \$50.

ter here is the decoy movement. If you got the money, invest in decoys with motion, because a dozen or rhythm and you need to more afloat ducks don't really sit idly and your best bet is to imitate as precisely as possible just ensure birdlounge in. Robo Duck is one mind, body with the weapsuch 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 be able to truly master your feel of shooting. 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 look at some sharp shooting practices. To be honest, begins in waterfowl huntshooting is the epitome of the duck hunting sport and everything else that leads up to this including decoys, blinds, scouting, etc. are you a stronger sense of joy and pride as a clean kill.

But, how exactly you can at a time make that clean kill? What's Getting along the previin waterfowl hunting? How accurate shooting skills?

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, however, in fact, it's more about instinctive than mechanical. It's one of the skills that you'll master with coaching

and generous practice. Ok, enough talking. Let's just jump over to some best duck hunting shooting tips. Follow this effective duck hunting shooting tips and you'll definitely pull more kills.

## Choose a shotgun that fits your body

Before you even think of shooting birdies, you need

I know many duck hunters who never practice shooting waterfowl hunting season One aspect that does mat- and then actually have the audacity to complain about their misses. Remember, hunting needs practice and sync your body and mind with the weapon before you can actually make the kill.

Preseason shooting pracies that the water is safe to tice can easily sync your on. I prefer to practice preseason shooting at the dove currents and move wings 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 with the sport. However, to back my rhythm and get a

#### 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.

Taking aim is important with decoy tips, it's time to and to be precise, you will have enough time to take at least three well-aimed shots shooting is where the fun before the birdie goes out of the range. Thereby, it is ing. Ok, let me just say that only rational to slow down, take your time to aim at the duck. Suppress the jerk during shotgun mounting and never rush on to shots. This will take time to get used to, supplementary. Believe me, but believe me once you are there are few other accom- able to control your exciteplishments that will give ment and anxiety, the kills will follow.

# Take out one birdie

the secret of scoring high ous point, another common mistake most novice duck can you actually transform hunters make is to shoot the misses into hits? What at the flight without taking do you need to increase your aim at one duck. You know a flight of ducks coming No one is a born master, in your decoy is more than 90% air. Yes, without aiming you'll most probably be hitting the air in between the flight. Thereby, it is useless to shot the flight of ducks without specifying a target.

press your anxiety, is the order of the duck shooting. **Hunting tip for** 

#### the late season

Opening up a waterhole in frozen marshes or lakes is one seriously effective tip to shoot some birdies in late season. If the ice isn't too thick to cut clean slices, use a net to pick up shattered ice from the surface of the hole, which doesn't look natural.

#### Staying late does pay off

To take advantage of strong tailwinds, waterfowls to tend to migrate behind cold fronts. Thereby, staying late in the morning is a good idea to shoot migrating birdies looking to take some

#### Patience has its rewards

Waterfowl hunting is a patience sport and there is no way you can rush into kills. Try to be patient and wait for the right opportunity to fire. Shooting randomly without aiming or without taking into view the group patterns of birdies will only result in more misses and more desperation.

#### Shoot the trailing birdie

Well, this is more logical than intuitive. When a duck flight is landing most of the hunters will aim at the lowest and closest birdies, which mean there is a greater chance of two or more hunters aiming for the same bird. Personally, I prefer shooting the highest birdie in the flight for the first shot, this not only leave my shotgun in the ideal trajectory to aim other flaring ducks for the two more shots, but gives me a sense of pride to be able to aim for a birdie, which no other hunter was daring to blow out.

#### Keep up with the follow through

What happens when you don't follow-through the club after hitting the golf ball? Same is the case with the shooting. Don't pull out of the swing after shooting, rather keep the barrel moving on its natural trajectory and you'll be amazed at the results for sure.

## Go to a shooting school

Ok, perhaps this is the best duck hunt shooting tip I can offer. There are many shooting schools with specialized courses for waterfowl hunting practice. The certified shotgun instructors in shooting academies will certainly help you analyze, sort and correct problems.







