
George Reiger


The Wood Duck is the only North American duck so marked. Females show a few small feathers on the upper surface of the wing that are purplish and have the same lustre as oil on water. As a result of protective legislation and a complete hunting ban from 1918 to 1941, the Wood Duck has made a remarkable comeback. Its elegant, green speculum with white shoulder patch makes it easily recognizable. Females show a few small feathers on the upper surface of the wing that are purplish and have the same lustre as oil on water.

Arriving before dawn, my hunting partner and I tossed out two dozen mallard decoys and set up pre-dawn. Within 20 minutes, we could hear the whistle of wings in the darkness overhead—a good omen. Learn more: A Beginner's Guide to Duck Hunting in Montana

Known as North America's "duck factory," the region supports as many as 30 million waterfowl annually. Jump shooting involves nothing more than creeping up on ducks that to lure waterfowl within range is a practice that began in North America more than a century ago. One of the best recent books on decoys and decoy layouts is "The Wings of Dawn" by George Reiger. Go to Complete List ».