Step Outdoors

Duck & Goose Calling
Level 1

OBJECTIVE
1. To recognize the calls of common ducks and geese.
2. To have the participants mimic the vocalizations of these birds using a variety of available Calls.

MATERIALS REQUIRED
A variety of duck and goose calls for demonstration such as, single or double reed Mallard call, Widgeon whistle, short reed Canada Goose call, flute style Canada Goose call and a Snow Goose call. If possible have a few calls the students can practice on.

DISCUSSION
The sport of 'Duck Calling' began in the 1850's along the Mississippi flyway. This flyway, as we know, is heavily populated with Mallards and other dabbling ducks. Hunters found out early on that these birds would not only respond to the decoys set out, but would also react to the hunters voices when they imitated the ducks. Because of this fact the call as we know it today was developed in and around this flyway.

ACTIVITY

Explain to the participants that each species of duck and goose makes its own individual calls and sounds. Not every duck goes "quack" nor every goose goes "honk". Demonstrate for the group the various calls on hand. If calls are available for the students, have them practice until they are proficient in their 'honks' and 'quacks'!

EXTENSION
Discuss how the use of calls can be beneficial for the sport of 'waterfowl hunting'.

Time: 1 **hour**
Intro: 5 min
Activity: 40 min
Discussion and Review: 15 min

Safety
No safety concerns

NOTES

Manitoba Wildlife Federation