



DUCK WING ID – DABLERS

Project Skills:

- 4-H'ers will learn duck wing characteristics and share their knowledge with other members.

Life Skill:

- Critical thinking: reason, compare and analyze information

Grade Levels: 6 and above

Method: Jigsaw

Time: Depends on number of species studied

Supplies Needed:

- Duck wings or duck ID cards (on card stock)
- "Duck ID Fact Sheet"

Do Ahead:

- Prepare duck wings or wing cards. For a free download of "Ducks at a Distance":
<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/18884/18884-h/18884-h.htm>.

Youth Leader Roles:

- Experienced youth can "float" among tables and help with the learning process.

Sources:

- Created by Paula Rogers Huff, 4-H Youth Development Agent, UW-Extension, Oconto County. Huff has a M.S. degree in Wildlife Biology from Iowa State University.
- Images from "Ducks at a Distance" at:
<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/18884/18884-h/18884-h.htm>.
- Content reviewed by Tom Nigus, Wildlife Supervisor, North East

BACKGROUND

Dabbling ducks have brightly colored wing patches (speculums) that make duck identification relatively easy – both in the hand and in the field.

Males and females of the same species do not have identical speculums, so it is necessary to learn two wing patches for each species of duck.

In this activity geared toward 4-H Shooting Sports and/or Exploring Your Environment members, each youth gets the opportunity to be the *expert!*

**WHAT TO DO**

Begin by passing out duck ID cards or prepared ducks wings. Let the group examine the wings closely, noting similarities and differences. Encourage the group to share their observations.

Using the Jigsaw Method for Duck ID

Now form "Expert Groups." The number of Expert Groups will be equal to the number of species that the 4-H'ers will be learning. For example, if the members will be learning *five* species of ducks, you will need *five* Expert Groups. It's ideal if you have at least three youth in each Expert Group (club size of 15), but you can easily adjust if you have fewer.

Each *group* will become experts on identifying *one* of the five species of duck by using wing characteristics. Give each group a set of picture cards (see attached) of their species of bird to examine.

In addition, each group should be given information for the species they are learning (from the "Duck ID Fact Sheet" – it points out key identification factors). The easiest way to do this is to laminate the appropriate part of the fact sheet to the back of the wing ID card.

Expert Groups will need 10 minutes or so to learn their species of duck. At that time, have the 4-H'ers form their "Learning Groups." The number of Learning Groups will be the same as the number of youth in each Expert Group. So if you had 15 youth in five Expert Groups (three members in each group), you will have three Learning Groups. Have the youth count off *by species* to form their Learning Groups. (You want to have one *expert* on each species in every group.)

In the Learning Groups, each Expert will spend five minutes sharing the characteristics of their species and distributing printed materials.

Have complete "Duck ID Fact Sheets" available at the tables for each participant. All group members will then work on learning all the species, with the "experts" available for consultation.

TALK IT OVER**Reflect:**

- What worked well with this activity?
- What's the easiest part of duck wing identification for you?
- What's the hardest part for you?
- What helped when you were the Expert?

Region, Wisconsin Dept.
of Natural Resources.

Keywords:

- Birds, characteristics, identification, shooting sports, speculum

Apply:

- How did you decide what was important in learning to identify duck wings.
- Why might you want to be able to identify different duck species?
- How might you use the new skills you practiced today, in other situations?

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Mallard



Hen

Drake



Blue-winged Teal



Hen

Drake



Green-winged Teal



Hen

Drake



Wood Duck



Hen

Drake



Pintail



Hen

Drake



Shoveler









Hen

Drake



Duck ID Fact Sheet

		Speculum	Additional Characteristics
Mallard		Iridescent purplish-blue speculum with white margins	
Blue-winged Teal		Males: Green with white leading edge Females: Dark dull green	Coverts: Blue wing patch
Green-winged Teal		Green with some black feathers	Coverts: Dull brown
Wood Duck		Iridescent blue-green	Color of speculum spreads into coverts
Pintail		Male: iridescent green Female: Dull, non-iridescent bronze	
Shoveler		Male: Iridescent green Female: Non-iridescent green	Coverts: Blue with white margins