



FALL 2026 EDITION

WATERFOWL DECOY & ACCESSORY GUIDE

Trends I'm seeing in the waterfowl world right now, and the decoys, motion, blinds and power I'd put in the trailer before the season opens.

FROM JASON

BIRDS GET CONDITIONED. YOUR SPREAD SHOULD EVOLVE.

Waterfowl hunting and equipment is constantly evolving. What I find fascinating is how certain tools can be extremely deadly or useful and then watching how birds get conditioned and the effectiveness wanes.

Spinning wing decoys might be the ultimate example. Twenty-five years ago, spinning wing decoys pulled in every duck that was within eyesight. Today, they are still important for hunters over field spreads, but they often require some finesse at times.

Below are a few observations on trends in the waterfowl hunting community along with a shopping guide for getting prepared for this upcoming fall.



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HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Every product I mention has a Shop button. Tap it, grab what you need, and get the trailer packed before opening day.

GETTING SKINNY FOR CANADA GEESE

Silhouettes are deadly, particularly for giant Canada geese.

Need an affordable and compact spread for early season hunts or need to bulk up a larger spread? Silhouettes are highly functional.

Fully flocked silhouettes in particular look extremely realistic and offer some variety in poses and movement as birds change angles on the decoys.

For durability and realism, check out the Dakota Decoy X-Treme Fully Flocked Canada Goose Decoys.



JASON'S PICK

DAKOTA DECOY X-TREME FULLY FLOCKED CANADA GOOSE SILHOUETTES

Compact, affordable, and realistic enough to run as your whole early-season spread or to bulk up a big one.

[SHOP THE SILHOUETTES →](#)

FIELD NOTE

Silhouettes change look as birds change angles. That "movement" is free. Mix poses and don't line them all up facing the same way.

BROWN DOWN YOUR DUCKS

From one end of the flyway to the other, duck decoy spreads start to look shockingly similar.

The standard puddle duck spread often consists of all mallards in an equal sex ratio where all the drakes have perfect fall plumage. For added realism, I love to mix in other species. Pintails are great because of the amount of white for added visibility.

Like to add more brown decoys? Species like teal, gadwall, wigeon or other species that are prevalent can all add realism.

For visibility, try adding some fully flocked black ducks like the Dakota Decoy Fully Flocked Black Ducks to your spread, even in the Central Flyway where black ducks are not common. These dark decoys pop off the water and add a lot of visibility.

I also like to combine a few different brands and even sizes for what I believe is added realism.



JASON'S PICK

DAKOTA DECOY FULLY FLOCKED BLACK DUCKS

Dark bodies that pop off the water. Run them in any flyway — the birds don't care that black ducks aren't local. They see contrast.

[SHOP BLACK DUCKS →](#)

FIELD NOTE

Break the pattern. Odd species, different brands, different sizes — anything that keeps your spread from looking like every other spread on the flyway.

WHITE FOR DIVERS

When it comes to diver ducks, either with gang rigs or Southern Flyway Outfitters Decoy Rafts, I like to have a lot of white in the spread.

Again, white has high visibility. The Heyday HydroFoam Bluebills are a great option for durability. For a mix of divers that offer a lot of white and contrast, the Higdon Battleship Mixed Diver Pack offers a mix of Canvasbacks, Bluebills (Scaup), a Bufflehead and Goldeneye.



JASON'S PICK • DURABILITY

HEYDAY HYDROFOAM BLUEBILLS

Built to take a beating on gang rigs and rough water.

[SHOP BLUEBILLS →](#)



JASON'S PICK • CONTRAST

HIGDON BATTLESHIP MIXED DIVER PACK

Canvasbacks, bluebills, bufflehead and goldeneye in one pack. Maximum white.

[SHOP THE DIVER PACK →](#)



ALSO IN THE BOAT

SOUTHERN FLYWAY OUTFITTERS DECOY RAFTS

Fast way to put a big diver spread on the water without running individual lines.

[SHOP DECOY RAFTS →](#)

ADDING BULK & MOVEMENT FOR DUCK FIELD SPREADS

Windssocks often get associated with massive snow goose spreads, and no doubt many of the windssocks today can bulk up the sheer volume of decoys with some added movement.

Another scenario where socks can really shine is when trying to bulk up a field mallard spread. Ducks love movement, and big spreads with a big pocket or landing strip are often important. With duck field spreads, think numbers of dark bodies on the ground.

Mallards will often descend onto a corn field and move fast shoulder to shoulder as they aggressively leap in front of each other. Mimic this aggressiveness with movement in your spread.



You can sprinkle your more realistic full bodies throughout the spread, but emphasize your full bodies on the upwind edge of the pocket where the birds will be focusing as they finish.

Dive Bomb Industries makes a great mallard sock called the S3I that has a realistic body and head and snap lock backbone. Realistically, however, you could add any dark windsock and have some success. Specks or Canada goose socks that are headless are going to resemble a duck on the ground.



JASON'S PICK

DIVE BOMB INDUSTRIES S3I MALLARD SOCK

Realistic body and head, snap lock backbone, and the movement ducks want to see on the ground. Numbers without the weight.

[SHOP THE S3I →](#)

FIELD NOTE

Full bodies go on the upwind edge of the pocket. That's where finishing birds are looking. Fill the rest with dark socks and let the wind do the work.

MOVEMENT KILLS DUCKS AND GEESE

Motion decoys can be deadly for both ducks and geese, but with major differences.

Spinning wing decoys continue to improve and remain an important tool for puddle ducks in particular, but used with a remote can also get the attention of diver ducks. For shallow water and for field hunting, it is tough to beat the Lucky Duck HD with remote. For deeper water or layout boat spreads, look at the Higdon XS Floating Flasher Decoy.

Particularly on small water with less wind, motion feeders and swimmers can be over the top deadly. My favorite motion decoy for small spreads is the Lucky Duck Agitator that looks like a tipped up feeding mallard that throws water and splashes.

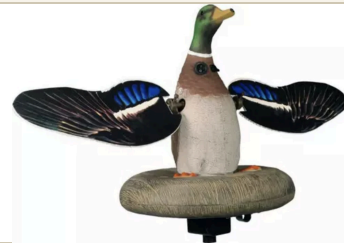


SHALLOW WATER & FIELDS

LUCKY DUCK HD WITH REMOTE

The spinner to beat for shallow water and field hunts. Remote lets you kill it when birds get twitchy.

[SHOP LUCKY DUCK HD →](#)



DEEP WATER & LAYOUT BOATS

HIGDON XS FLOATING FLASHER DECOY

Flash on the water where a staked spinner can't go.

[SHOP THE FLASHER →](#)



JASON'S PICK • SMALL WATER

LUCKY DUCK AGITATOR

Tipped-up feeding mallard that throws water and splashes. On calm, small water this one is over the top deadly.

[SHOP THE AGITATOR →](#)

MOTION FOR CANADA GEESE & SNOW GEESE

CANADA GEESE

The best motion decoy I have found for Canada geese is the JTR Dakota X Flapper, which adds a remote, realistic flagging motion away from the blinds. What makes this motion decoy stand out is the realistic wing flapping and then the wings fold up. This decoy works on a remote and can be used just like a flag. Hit birds with some movement from a distance or when their wings are beating on the edges of the spread, especially when the birds are looking away.

SNOW GEESE

There are several good motion options for snow geese, and many of these motion decoys can work exceptionally well on young or juvenile geese. Some of the better flapping decoys include the Clone and Lucky Duck Super Flapper. Rotary machines can be paired up with Sillosock Fliers and the Clone Feather Fliers. Both Sillosock Fliers and Feather Fliers can also be mounted on poles.



For the best look for wind driven fliers on poles, use a fiberglass or even graphite pole that has some flex. My favorite poles allow the decoy to move horizontally in the wind. I often use some old broken musky rod blanks or other long fishing rods that have the guides removed and found that bend in the pole improves the look of the decoy.

For both Canada goose and snow goose field spreads, additional movement can be created with motion systems like the Minor Details MDL G2R, which moves three decoys in a circle and creates the look of aggressively feeding geese.



JASON'S PICK • CANADA GEESE

JTR DAKOTA X FLAPPER

Remote flagging motion away from the blind. Flaps, folds up, and works like a flag.

[SHOP THE FLAPPER →](#)



SNOW GEESE

LUCKY DUCK SUPER FLAPPER & CLONE FLAPPER

Flapping motion that juvenile snows can't leave alone.

[SHOP FLAPPERS →](#)



FLIERS

SILLOSOCK FLIERS & CLONE FEATHER FLIERS

Run them on a rotary or a flexible pole. A rod blank with the guides stripped works great.

[SHOP FLIERS →](#)



MOTION SYSTEMS

MINOR DETAILS MDL G2R

Three decoys moving in a circle. Looks like geese fighting over feed.

[SHOP THE G2R →](#)

BLINDS, BATTERIES & ADDITIONAL TOOLS

Not much has changed with blinds over the years.

The low-profile layout blinds have been popular for thirty years. In the past ten years, more hunters have been using A-frame blinds on field edges or where there is existing cover and side-winding birds.

Probably the biggest change is the effort people are using to conceal blinds. Make sure to carry an electric hedge trimmer in your decoy trailer and allow ample time for concealment. The DEWALT 20V Max is a workhorse.



Speaking of battery power, another big trend is mounting ample LED light bars on decoy trailers. When running additional light bars on the trailer, use a stand-alone lithium battery for your power source versus the plug-in for the trailer lights. Way less headaches running a separate lithium battery. A Norsk Lithium 12V 120Ah Heated Battery is ideal and will run your lights for several consecutive mornings between charges.



CONCEALMENT

DEWALT 20V MAX HEDGE TRIMMER

Lives in the trailer. Brushing in blinds is the difference-maker now — give it the time it deserves.

[SHOP THE TRIMMER →](#)



JASON'S PICK • POWER

NORSK LITHIUM 12V 120AH HEATED BATTERY

Stand-alone power for trailer light bars. Several mornings between charges, and the heater keeps it working when it's cold.

[SHOP NORSK LITHIUM →](#)

FIELD NOTE

Don't run light bars off the trailer's plug-in. A separate lithium battery means no dead truck, no blown fuses, no headaches at 4 a.m.



GET THE TRAILER PACKED. **SEE YOU THIS FALL.**

Everything in this guide is gear I run. Grab what fits your spread and get after it this fall.

[SHOP THE FULL GEAR LIST →](#)

WEBSITE

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