

Hooded Merganser

Decoys

from

Ontario, Canada



CANADIAN DECOY &
OUTDOOR COLLECTIBLES
ASSOCIATION

Hooded Merganser
Decoys
from
Ontario, Canada



Ernie and Lewis Griffin, St. 15209



Sam McAlpine, St. 15101
Don McAlpine, St. 15102



Edgar McNeil, St. 15330



David W. McNeil, St. 15251



Ralph Vioris



Earl Vioris, St. 15200



McAlpine family



Christopher Vioris, (from Hamilton Harbor)



Wilbert Clark, St. 15300





CANADIAN DECOY &
OUTDOORS COLLECTIBLES
ASSOCIATION

Canadian Decoy and
Outdoors Collectibles
Association Presents

**Ontario Hooded
Mergansers**

*Working Decoys
An Exhibit*

Hooded mergansers are the smallest of the three species of mergansers commonly found in North America. They are generally regarded as wary, retiring birds, easily disturbed by man. They tend to prefer wooded sloughs, streams, and ponds in swamps, and usually stand in single, pairs or in very small flocks. They have typically nest in tree cavities and will use wood duck nest boxes that are placed in remote areas. One of their primary breeding areas is in the Province of Ontario south of the Great Lakes, which helps account for the presence of a higher incidence of hunting decoys for this species north of the border.

All species of mergansers eat a great deal of fish which tends to make them good table fare. Hooded mergansers do not raise vegetable matter during the summer months and are considered especially palatable during the fall hunting season, although not as good as other ducks such as mallards.



LEADON HAMEL



Stewart's Ontario School 11, 1900



Oliver King, Jr., 1960



Long and Owen Griffin Co., 1900





Ernie and Lewis Griffin (c. 1928)



David W. Nichol (c. 1925)



Ralph Weese



David W. Nichol (c. 1935)



unknown maker (from Hamilton Harbor)



Sam Hutchings (c. 1910)



Edgar



sh Weese



early Nichol (c. 1915)



unknown maker (from Hamilton Harbor)



William Clark (c. 1930)



c. 1910)

Edgar McNeil (c. 1930)

early Nichol (c. 1915)

Hutchings family

William Clark (c. 1930)

Billy Ellis (c. 1940)

Hooded mergansers are the smallest of the three species of mergansers commonly found in North America. They are generally regarded as wary, retiring ducks, easily disturbed by man. They tend to prefer wooded sloughs, streams, and ponds in swamps, and usually travel as singles, pairs or in very small flocks. The hens typically nest in tree cavities and will use wood duck nest boxes that are placed in remote areas. One of their primary breeding areas is in the Province of Ontario north of the Great Lakes, which helps account for the presence of a higher incidence of hunting decoys for this species north of the border.

All species of mergansers eat a great deal of fish which tends to make them poor table fare. Hooded mergansers do eat more vegetable matter during the summer months and are considered reasonably palatable during the fall hunting season, although not as good as other ducks such as teal or mallards.









Photographs of the hooded merganser decoys featured in the CDOCA display at the 2024 Clayton Decoy Show; arranged by alphabetic order of the carvers last name.



Drake hooded merganser c. 1930 by William Clarke (1886-1944), Toronto, Ontario.



Hooded merganser pair c. 1940 by Billy Ellis (1865-1963), Whitby, Ontario.



Hooded merganser pair c. 1928 by Ernie and Lewis Griffin, Gananoque, Ontario.



Hooded merganser pair c. 1955 by Ernie and Lewis Griffin, Gananoque, Ontario.



Hooded merganser pair by the Hutchings family, Jones Falls, Ontario, with crosshatch carving.



Folky hooded merganser pair c. 1910 by Sam Hutchings, Jones Falls, Ontario.



Hooded merganser pair c. 1960 by Oliver King, Port Severn, Ontario.



Hooded merganser pair c. 1930 by Edgar McNeil (1869-1954), Landsdowne, Ontario.



Early pair of hooded mergansers c. 1915 by the Nichol family, Smiths Falls, Ontario. Note the wooden stabilizers attached to the bottoms.



Hooded merganser pair c. 1925 by David W. Nichol (1890-1977), Smiths Falls, Ontario.



Hooded merganser pair c. 1935 by David W. Nichol (1890-1977), Smiths Falls, Ontario.



Hooded merganser pair by Ralph Weese (1884-1965), Belleville, Ontario.



Drake hooded merganser by an unknown Ontario carver



Drake hooded merganser from Hamilton Harbor by an unknown Ontario carver.



Hen hooded merganser c. 1900 by an unknown Ontario carver, made in the Toronto carving style.