

Dabblers and Divers: Wisconsin Waterfowl Lesson Plan

Grades: 8 - 12

Length of Program: 45 minutes - 1 hour

Time of Year: Year round

Preferred Adult/ Student Ratio: 1/10

Summary:

Wisconsin is home to more than 20 different kinds of ducks. Through the use of waterfowl specimens and a habitat hike, students will come to understand Wisconsin's waterfowl and their management.

Teacher Preparation:

None

Academic Standards Addressed:

Science

F.8.2 Show how organisms have adapted structures to match their functions

Special Instructions:

None

Materials:

- Various waterfowl skins

Procedure:

Through a classroom-style presentation, provide an introduction to the different waterfowl groups, such as dabblers, divers, mergansers and sea ducks, and their adaptations. Then give a species by species account on diagnostic field marks, life histories, population sizes and distribution throughout the state. Also talk about species occurrence within Horicon Marsh. A follow-up hike will look at habitat management for waterfowl at Horicon Marsh and other similar properties.

Wrap-up:

Review the importance of Horicon Marsh and other wetlands to waterfowl as well as other marshland wildlife.