



## Duck Calls of Illinois, 1863-1963

*Robert D. Christensen*

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Few possessions are as highly prized by duck hunters as their favorite calls. Skillfully crafted and highly individualized, calls enable the hunter to attract waterfowl by mimicking their sounds. In recent years, the appreciation for calls and the art of call making has increased notably among waterfowl enthusiasts. As collecting has grown in popularity, a fascination with the history and craftsmanship of duck calls has emerged. In this lavishly illustrated book on the duck calls of Illinois, collector and enthusiast Robert D. Christensen recounts the history of call making and provides a practical guide for collectors of this uniquely American folk art. Featuring famous makers and introducing many lesser known craftsmen, he shows how Illinois artisans dominated the early market and continued to influence the design and the refinement of the modern duck call. The book spans one hundred years of call making, from 1863 to 1963, detailing the development and evolution of call design and focusing on the work of Illinoisans, whose contributions in the "golden age" of hand-crafted calls have remained unparalleled. Christensen offers useful advice on collecting duck calls, including information on finding antiques, evaluating calls of unknown origin, assessing value, and identifying counterfeit calls. Christensen provides essential data on over one hundred call makers of Illinois, long recognized as a vital and active hub for the craftsmanship of calls, and includes over five hundred photographs and illustrations that facilitate identification of the calls. Covered in the catalog of call makers are such historically significant and skilled crafters as Fred A. Allen, credited with having made the first modern duck call; Charles W. Grubbs, maker of the first commercial modern wooden duck call; Charles H

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