GREEN-WINGED TEAL

TEAL DECOY

ARTWORK by BRAD FALKINBURG

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Brad Falkinburg has been carving and creating his own hunting decoys for more than 20 years. All of Falkinburg's carvings are made from the highest-quality materials, such as northern white cedar, high density cork, northern basswood, tupelo, or some combination of them. Besides waterfowl, Falkinburg carves turkey decoys, dove decoys, songbirds, shorebirds, fish, and more. His carvings have received many awards and best of show honors at national competitions. Falkinburg and his family reside in Avon near Lake Erie. Check out his website at falkinburgdecoys.weebly.com.

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GREEN-WINGED TEAL

Puddle ducks, like the green-winged teal, are typically birds of fresh, shallow marshes, and rivers rather than of large lakes and bays. A teal is a good diver, but usually feeds by dabbling or tipping rather than by submerging.

The green-winged teal is the smallest dabbling duck in North America. The duck's size gives the impression of great speed, but mallards can fly faster. Flight is often low and erratic, with the entire flock twisting and turning as one unit. Green-winged teal are vigorous and quite hardy; some stay as far north as open water is found. Preferred habitats include shallow marshes, flooded fields, and well-vegetated shorelines. The diet includes aquatic invertebrates, seeds, and plant matter. Green-winged teal are rare nesters in Ohio.