

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

news release

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WATERFOWL IDENTIFICATION GUIDE PUBLISHED IN SPANISH

A Spanish version of "Ducks at a Distance," the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife's 24-page waterfowl identification guide, will be distributed to Latin American countries as an aid to conservation, Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall announced today.

Translated by the Organization of American States, the Spanish edition will be distributed to Latin American republics under the title, "Los Patos a Distancia." It will contain the same illustrations as the original English edition that first appeared in 1963 and since has sold nearly 250,000 copies.

Both the English and Spanish editions are available for 30 cents each from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

"The translation of this authoritative guide is another example of how our friends to the south are cooperating in preserving an international resource," Secretary Udall said. "The booklet also will assist our Spanish-speaking citizens in the Southwestern United States. Hunters can use the guide to help them recognize their quarry."

"Ducks at a Distance" was especially prepared to show waterfowl in their fall migration colors and to portray the birds from the same perspective that hunters see them in the wild.

"We hope that all hunters in North, South, and Central America will become adept at recognizing various species through use of this guidebook," Secretary Udall added. "Migration records reveal that waterfowl may be in Canada one day, in the United States a week later, and in Mexico or even South America by January."

"This year we are particularly hopeful that shooters will concentrate on mallard drakes and spare the hens because of a population disparity," Secretary Udall said. "Hens are more crucial to summer production success and subsequently to the size of fall flights."

In addition to color drawings of the mallard drakes and hens, "Ducks at a Distance" informs the reader that "la voz de la hembra es 'cauc' en tono alto, la del macho 'cuic-cuic' in tono más bajo." ("voice of the hen is loud quack; of the drake, a lower-pitched kwek-kwek.")

Besides hunters, the booklet is valuable for teachers, students, and other persons who enjoy observing birdlife.

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