

Charles Ditto

(1864 – 1935) Keithsburg, Illinois

In addition to being a farmer, game warden, market hunter, waterfowl guide, and champion trap shooter, Charles Ditto was also an entrepreneur. He was granted a number of patents for waterfowl decoy devices, and later went into the game-call-making business.

Ditto's calls resembled those made by his friend, F.A. Allen. Perhaps the most famous of Ditto's calls were the Eureka models, which were produced from around the turn of the century until the mid-1920s.



Many of these early calls were constructed of two pieces and featured a hard rubber insert and brass reed. Ditto later sold five other types of calls, many of which he helped put together, until a shooting accident resulted in the loss of one hand.

The rarest of the Ditto calls is a unique all-metal combination duck and goose call. He is also credited with making hard rubber calls.

(Gary Koehler)



Charles Ditto (1865-1935) of Keithsburg, Illinois was another of the early call makers. He made hard rubber reed duck and crow calls using a molded rubber toneboard. Most of his calls used a metal sleeve inside their barrels and a metal-tube insert to hold the toneboard and reed. Ditto was, among other things, a champion trapshooter, farmer, guide, and hunting camp manager. Ditto's calls were widely distributed as they were available in many national hardware and sporting goods catalogs by. This is an example of Ditto's early flared-stopper Eureka duck calls.

**Photograph and call information provided by Bob Christensen
Author of Duck Calls of Illinois 1863-1963**