

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Region 6 Youth Waterfowl Hunt with an ECO, Fall 2011



This September Environmental Conservation Officers from Region 6 took seven youngsters hunting for the youth waterfowl hunting weekend. The event was hosted by the Brownville Fish and Game Club, sponsored by the Federated Sportsman's Clubs of Jefferson County and helped made possible from funding from New York Conservation Officers Association. The hunt was also received funding from local chapters of the National Wild Turkey Federation and Ducks Unlimited.

The waterfowl hunt was a two day event with the first being an instructional day and the second being the hunt day. The instructional day included some time in the class room covering the rules and regulations pertaining to waterfowl hunting as well as covering the different types of calls, use of decoys, waterfowl hunting strategies, hunting safety and boat and canoe safety. There was also a waterfowl identification course covering all types of waterfowl. The day continued on the shooting range where some basic marksmanship skills were reviewed as well as some practice shooting at stationary targets. Once the kids were comfortable shooting stationary targets they moved on to testing their skills on some clay birds. Each young hunter had a chance to shoot at several flying targets to help them prepare and become more comfortable for the upcoming hunt. The following Saturday everyone met their ECO mentor and headed out to the areas to be hunted. Some were able to walk into a blind where they hunted, others needed to paddle in by canoe. It was slow hunting for some but others had



good hunting. A total of 11 ducks and 3 geese were taken, including blue wing teals, mallards, wood ducks and a widgeon. When the hunt was over, everyone returned to the sportsman's club for some food and refreshments. There was also a lesson on cleaning the ducks. Everyone involved felt it was fun and a great learning opportunity which will continue to be offered for many years to come.

