

**Mershon's 'Recollections of Fifty Years Hunting and Shooting.'**

—We wish that all of the older men who hunted or fished in their earlier years would leave us records of their experiences. Not only are such records intensely interesting reading for all who love life in the "great outdoors", but they contain much valuable data on the habits and abundance of species now rare or gone forever. One of the most interesting of works of this kind is W. B. Mershon's 'Recollections'<sup>1</sup> which has recently been published by the Stratford Company of Boston.

Mr. Mershon's previous publication on the Passenger Pigeon is the recognized authority on that now extinct bird and in the present volume he includes such information about the Pigeon as he has secured since the issue of the earlier work. There is also an account of the last of the Turkeys in Michigan, his final specimen having been shot in 1886, and a description of the dance of the Sandhill Crane as witnessed in North Dakota in 1889. These are the most important ornithological contributions in the volume but chapter after chapter we are taken on one hunting trip after another, all replete with interest and information on the various game which constituted the object of the chase.

There are early accounts of Quail and Grouse shooting in Michigan when a party of five on three successive days shot 144 Ruffed Grouse and shipped to market 4000 in a single season. There were deer hunts in 1880 at a time when it was estimated that 70,000 deer were killed in Michigan in a year, and then the fitting up of an old circus car as a movable camp in which the author's party went to the Yellowstone for fish and game; to North Dakota and Saskatchewan for Geese and Ducks, when 163 Geese could be shot in a day by several gunners and when the splendid Whooping Crane could be seen almost daily. The slaughter mentioned above is cited by Mr. Mershon to show how market gunning affected the game supply, but as he truly says three-quarters of the country where game abounded was then inaccessible and the rest only visited by those who travelled on foot or horseback whereas now "roads and Fords" reach to the most secluded and remote spots and all the country is combed for game.

This is the sad part of the story but when we read it we should realize all the more clearly why bag limits and other restrictions are placed on the hunter of today—yet in spite of all this the game does not seem to be keeping up with the hunting.

Our thanks are due Mr. Mershon for this interesting book and we hope it may stimulate others to record their recollections. The publishers are to be congratulated upon a fine piece of book-making and printing.—W. S.

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<sup>1</sup> *Recollections of My Fifty Years Hunting and Fishing.* By Wm. B. Mershon 1923. The Stratford Company, Publishers, Boston, Massachusetts. Pp. 1-iv. + 1-259. 21 half-tone plates. Price \$3.50, post paid \$3.65.