## Field Sports at Home and Abroad

THE DRY FLY By Walter McGuckin
The pleasant'st angling it se the fis with her golden oars the silver stream,
d greedily devour the treacherous bait. -"Much Ado About Nothing."

## find



















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 Mind


 and watemaze and witwide and 4nawiwaz mawiawain



 so long as no part of the fly ic subumerged.
There are large stretches of our streams that maye be fished ittecthes of our stris manner, so that
that
there is no fonger any ground for the asser-
tion that the rough grow tion that the rough waters of our mountain
streams are not adapted to the dry fly And
I predict that in a short time the small-mouth predict that in a
base. will fall a vi
lure.-Recreation.

## A CALIFORNIA DUCK CLUB

 The State of Calfiornia is celebrated for itssportitig advantages, and there is probably no
place in the world where duck shotity place in the world where duck shooting has
been brought o such perfection. The suisun
marshes are situated forty miles below the mouth of the Sacramento and San Joaquin
Rivers, the area covered being about thirty
miles by ten. Many clubs rent portions of miles by ten. Many clubs rent portions of
these marshes. Most of them comprising from
three to 6 oo acres. The club to which I am fortunate enough to belong is composed of about 1,400 acres on the north shore of the
Suisun Bay. The tidal waters are brackish
and intersect these -marshes, being controlied and intersect these- marshes, being controlied
by flood-ates. Sloughs or wide streams, pro-
nounced "slews," traverse the entire area, and the island is surrounded by "Ievees, or em-
bankments about 15 fit. high. The shoting
season runs from October Ito February season runs from October I to February I, and
in September the dicks. begin to arrive in
flocks fromi their northern breeding haunts.
Soce form Some remain all the year in the swamp, but
the northern birds may atways be distinguish-
ed at the beginning of the ed at the beginning of the season by their
finer pliumage, and altogether look much bet-
ter than the native birds. The island in question is reached by the
Southern Pacific Overlind railway, which tra-
verses the marshes. This was built' terses the marshes. This was built a long
time ago and is maintained at the cost of mili-
lions of dollars. It was a most difficult job to
construct this construct this part of the line. At first piles
were driven in to the depth of ooot., but as
the swamp was. practically bottomless, they
proved useless the proved useless, the road bed constantly sink-
ing, owing to the soft nature of the mud. In
thre end a more or less stable foundation was
formed by bundres formed by bundtes of grushwood laid on
frames and sunte, but even how the grourd
shakes distinctly as the train passes over itit

## all mi tri is cl an it <br> nus rib in ch an it at at co p

ne bo the heaviest itemis, and tons of stulf also considerable tivalry ariongst the duere
bs in dise lubs in discovering the most tempting cereals.
and if a new and sutce thist the it is kept an inviolablecesstul club secret. At the commencement of the season every-
body is at at an. for some of the ponds lie
at a considerable distance. The steam launch conveys the shooters to the different landing
places, where narrow planked walks laid be-
tween the tules fead form an impenetrable barrien about Ifft. high,
and grow in platede at the tanding places, which grow
higher than the tules, and can be seen from higher than the tules, and can be seen from
some distance, so are of assistance as a guide
to the launch. Burrashes or flags preponderto the launch. Bulrashes of flags preponder-
ate in the marshes, and form good covert
round round the ponds, they grow to an immense
size, the head being as much as 8 in. long.
ni arriving at the particula to yours you proceed to put out your decoys,
already already placed in the thoat ty the keeper. This
requires some knowledge the position cinosen deper. circumstances. The duck generally circle around a pond until satisfied that no dan-
ger exists, and then come towards it up wind.
It is therefore advanto Ier exists, and then come towards it up wind.
It tiserefore avantageous for the shoote to
be concealed on that edge of the pond from be concealed on that edge of the pond from
which the wind is blawing. The decoys, must
also be put out with discretion, that is, suffie ciently in sight to attract the attention of the
birds, but not right in front of the shooter,
where a nice pied by decoys which the birds may a approach
with the ultimate intention of alighting. platform which is is plated on slanks dused-the
the marsh, ine into
thoat which is run in between the marsh, the boat which is run in between
two thick screens of tule, and the barrel, which
is the one I much prefer. It consists in sinking Wo thick screens of tule, and the bar in sinking
is the one I much prefer . It consists in sur
a barrel level with the mud in which you can a barrel level with the mud, in which you can
sit comportaly out of the wind, and a little
marsh grass placed of tound the edge completely disguises your positron
At the first streak of dawn you anxiously peer out, and great is the joy when you per.
ceive the first ducks approaching. You are
fortunate if they cotie in by twos and threes, ortunate if they come in by twos and threes,
butt the flocks vary considerably, some num-
bering three to four hundred. The law allows only thirty-five ducks to be killed by each per-
son daily, having reduced the number fron
fifty with a view to's stopping the destruction caused by "market-hunters." As the bag is
limited, the sportsmantis careful, on days when


Mr. New-come Fishanshoot-Great Sott! Der and grouse all over the hills, ducks,
and snipe in the flats and marshes, salmon in millions all over the coast, and the best
month in the year for trout; what the deuce is a fellow to go for first?
fored up on each side of the line by the pres-
Sure o t the railway. We shoot two dyy in ithe week, We.dices over the marsh, as it gives the birds. time to
rest in the meantime, and they are not other-
wise disturbed The wise disturbed. The keeper's work on these
marshes is most onerous, and it needs much marshes is most onerous, and it needs nuch
experience to understand the habits and re-
quirements of the different ducks which vary considerably. Great care is needed in making
and maintaining the ponds, which must not only be of the necessary depth and confornity
to attracct cettain kinds of fowl, but must be so arranged that
divert the flight from the other ponds. Fo
canvas-canvas-back ducks a depth of from 6 ft . to 15 frt.
is best, as these birds prefer to dive dep for
their food. The sprig-tail or sprig better known as the pin-tail, prefers to have its head at the bottom and its tail in the air, and for
this duck the ponds have a depth of about 8 Inin.
The clever old mallatd is suspicious of much The clever old mallard is stispicions of much
open wate, so does not often trust himself on
the ponds, but will generally dro the ponds, but will generally drop int pot
holes.or small natural pools amongst the tules
and for him the grain is placed near the edge and for him the grain is placed gear the edge
of the water. The baiting with grain is natur-
ducks are plentifinl, to select the better sorts,
such as sprig, mallard, and canva-sback,
though for the table the little teal holds its such as sprig, mallard, and canvas-back,
though for the table the little teal holds its
own with any other duck.
The excitement increases as flock after The excitement increases as flock after
flock :ppears, circling round three or more
times, high above you, before pitching, during which time you must not move a finger,
for they are examining the fully for danger, and at the pond most movemenent
are off. As before mentioned, the mallard is the most cautious of all, and it is my custom to
mark the pot-holes into which I have seen sundry pairs drop. When sport is slack, I steal to bag a fair number. Some ducks, of course, continue their
fight overhead, their goal being other ponds.
When the do not intend water-hole their fight is direct, and not
wheeling. Now is the time to take a right and
left left, and it is not an unknown occurrence for
a man, while his attention is occupied with the second shot, to be knocked over by the
first duck he has kilied, which falls with tre-
mendous impetius. mendous impeturs is yery windy the large
If the weather is
ponds called waterholes sometimes become
extremety roingh, and shooting is carried
under dificiculties. I remember two membe of our clint, both exceptionally strong men
periencing a most unconfortable time.
had had some extraordinary fine shooting periencing a most uncomfortable time, W
had had sone extraordina $\begin{aligned} & \text { fine stooting on } \\ & \text { Wednesday morning, and, contrary to our gen }\end{aligned}$ eral rule, had decicided to stop over the next
day, as ducks were so very plentiful. We had apportioned the best pond to one member whio
had a guest staying with him, betaking our-
selve to some we had excellent the smaller ponds, where limit bags, we hopped to hear gord netws of the
rest of the party, but were disturbed to find raised a a verfect horry plight. The wind had
hole, and they found one on targe water small boat with about twenty couple, the
were in danger of foundering. They anly sur ceeded
by cas close to the side of the tules, one of the part
having to wade in the soft mud and pist hoving to wade in the soft mud and push. the
boat in front of him. The unhappy sports. men arrived at the club house soaked to the
skin, having lost even the fey ducks they shot.
The morning fight generally lasts from daylight morning flight generally lasts fron birds retire to the open water for protection
At the time of the evening meal they return to the marshes. Lasvening meal howey return
teason the best flight took placer, for, somie
tor reason the best flight took place at II o'clock.
I have seen teal, which have an extraodrdinarily swift filight, come in at dusk like hail upon
the ponds. "Mud-hens" are a reat pest eat. Ing up three-quarters of the ducks' grain. They
are a bigger bird than our English moor-hen with dark, , bue-black plumage, green legs, an
white round the lets. Drives are institute White round the legs. Drives are instituted
in some clubs to keep them under, and they
are also destroyed by poisoned wheat, whilit is are also destroyed by poisoned wheat, whith is
placed in a boat; this method is quite safe as
tegards the dus placen in a boat; this method is quite safe a
regard the ducks, which are too shy and
suspicious of a trap to medde suspicious of. a trap to meddle with it. Carp,
also, unfortunately introduced by some idiot,
are a terrible pest, and very plentiful, eating are a terrible pest, and very plentiful, eatin
most of the natural food, which the ducks pre
fer to artificial bait of the root of a wild celandine throw out ortte buiblets from , the root plants
and are eagerly
aldoured by ducks. They are and are eagerly devoured by ducks. They are
especially appreciated by the sprigs or pinn tails, whlich, apprectiated clearing a pond, move on to
other places in search of it. As you wade through the water, huge carp swim out from
under your feet; they grow to an under your feet; they grow to an inmenise
size here. There is a plan on foot which it
is hoped may be successul, and oo to be tried is hoped may be successful, and is to be tried
next summer, when the ducks are away from
the marthers. It is believed that the carp may the marshes. It is believed that the calp may
be exterminated, or at least much reduced, by placing permanganate of. potash in the pondss
wwihch, thoumh killing the fish, loses its deadly
effects in a few days. The difficulty of geating effects in a few days. The dificiulty of getting
rid of these pests is much increased by reason
of the entire area being very often completely of the entire area being very often completely
submerged, allowing the carp to move freel Irom place to place through the tules.
But is is not only the shooting which forns
the attraction of the autumn season. the attraction of the autumn season.
Amongst my most pleasant memories are the
cheertul gathering at the club house, where
the friendly the friendly members discuss presenta and pare
sporting experiences. The club house is not sporting experiences. The club house is no
in any way luxurious, everything being plain
but comfortable, the centre of interest being kut comfortable, the centre of interest bein
the big gun-rack which adorns the wall.

- A. D. H.

A CHINESE SPORTSMAN'S GUN. The gun is a match-lock made of welded
telegraph wire; the barrel measures zin.. and
the 'stock, which is shaped like an old horse the 'stock, which is shaped like an old horse
pistol, measures perhaps another I2in. The pisto, measures perhaps another I2in.
triger in worked by two slips of banboo for
springs, and what would correspond to the springs, and what would correspond to the
hammer is an iron clip on a grotesque stalk, lighted incense-stick whenever he views a hare
squatting. That gun is the pride of his life squatting. That gun is the pride of his life,
but what especially pleases him hare two alter-
ations carried out by the local blacksmith to ations carried out by the local blacksmith
his instructions. At least att have theen
added to the barrel quite recently, and if thie welding had been done by a blind man that
would account for some inequalities and also
for fould account for some inequalities and also
for a goo zin. twist in the bartel, but the
proud owner stoutly maintains that now she shoots better than ever. Nobody in his senses
would worry about a little matter like a twiss
in the barrel and in the barrel, and if a man can shoot with this
gun what could he do with a straight one-乌un what could he do with a straight one
three perfectly fair contentions which I for one
would not venture to dispute. Then I tioned him aboure the other atte. Thation, and here
he waxed more enthusiastic than Pointing to a rough, scarred blotch at at the brech, he showed me how the old hole for the
priming had become soincrusted with charred
powder ash and rust that the wind priming had become so incrusted with charred
powder ash and rust that the incense-stick
Weuld no longer ignite the charge, so a section was cut off the breech, which, from alt ac-
counts, then received its one and only clen ing. Next a heavier piece was welded on in
the same place and a new hole drilted for the primine. Thace and a new hole wrold have dritited for the
grate fitter in Europe, baven a grate fitter in Europe, but the proud owner
thoughtit was the finest obb had ever sen
and he assures everybody that his ftiend the and he assures everybody that his friend the
smith is the cleverest one of his trade north of the Yellow River. His powder is, the usial
Chinese sort, very black and full of impurities.
He rests the stock of his He ese sort, very black and full of impurities
then walks to the of this gun on the ground,
thezle and pours the chargo down its bff of lengzth, and pours the char, shor
straight on top of the powder. He uses no wads, and considering the state his gun-barre!
must be in after years of neglect, perhaps it is
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Sportsman's Calendar SEPTEMBER
Trout-fishing at its best this month.
Bass in certain lakes. Sass in certain lakes, Cohoes all over th September Ist, shooting season opens on
the Mainland for grouse, duck, snipe September 1 tht, shooting season open
oniVancouver Island for grouse, duck, snipe and deer, except for grouse in
North and South Saanich Municipalities.
Wild Pigeons plentif
many localities.
as well fo rthe safety of his head, and the re
sult in that when he fires his gun, directly afte
she fute the fuse is applied to the touch-hole it fizze
and splutters for several seconds before it fin ally goes off with a noise like a badly-mad
squib. unusual. He grips the birrel with his lef hand somewhere near the middle of the gun
with his right hand on the stock, which pro
ject jects some 2t. straight out behind him, hen
lays his chek bone along the barrel of the gull
and pulls the trige and pulls the trigger. Thie reaylt is that after
shooting six or even times he has a large raww
bruise on his sheek hone be shooing six hor seven bone: but this toes no
bruise on his chek bery
worry although it haye seen lyim shooting with the
blool tricking down this sheek from the
wound

DONALD TD RATHER BE YOU. Were I to have my choice today,
Donatd IT frather be you.
Your salie is a smile that is. well wor
And your eyes are the truest blue.
 You haven't the air of a city youth,
And you haven'the clothes to wear:
But vour dress is mood for the good, gree And Good, He put you there. He put you there for a purpose, too,
Where the beasts and birds are fre.
He let you roam round your forest home Even as He let me.
 Once I lived in the same, small house,
On the same, small, sunny hill; And I dreamed a d daeam of the wind wing stream
That you are dreaming still. I trod the path that the cows had made:
The trail that the sheep had trod.
But I had my say, and I had my wayBut had my say, and I had my way-
And wann't the way of God
 I dreamed a dream that carried me far
Far into Far into the din and strife;
And 1 know full well that the white-walled cell
Has stolen the sweets of my life.

 For the rays srow faint, and the rainbow fades,
And the gold it melts away.
And the dreams of a street with its hurrying Are the dreams of another day.
And I'm longing now for my forest home With its wond now full skies of torest
If i hae,
Donald, my say and Ithad mather be mou. way,
ALLEN AYRAULT GREEN
A PARTNERSHIP

Woggs-So young Saphead and his father
are carrying on the business? Bogs- Yes. The old man does the busi-
ness while young Saphead does the carrying
on.- Puck.
Agent-D
your own?
your own?
Knicker-No, I'd rether own
somebody else.-Harper's Bazar. rod the path that the cows had made:
he trail that the sheep had trod. Above the cow bell's tinkling sound

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## oor Life

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