

The WOODCOCK

The Woodcock of America is a smaller bird than the Woodcock of the Old World, but like the latter, it is always regarded as the aristocrat of feathered game.

It is found from North Dakota and Southern Manitoba to Southern Quebec, and south to Florida; the best grounds for it in Canada being undoubtedly the southern portion of Nova Scotia. Good covers are hard to find nowadays and big bags, at all events in Ontario, are a thing of the past. The open season commences after most of the Cock have left for the South, but the occasional bird that gets up in October as one beats the covers for Grouse, adds the keenest zest to the sport, and the wonderfully elusive quality of the bird's flight always makes the successful shot one to be remembered.

Ruffed Grouse (Continued)

Given half a chance it will continue for all time to be our premier game bird, both in the woods and on our tables, but to ensure this, the pernicious and unsportsmanlike method of hunting it with the aid of a "treering" dog and potting it above the yelping cur, must stop. All sportsmen should unite in an effort to discountenance this murderous and almost universal system, and treat the bird as one would a Woodcock, to be shot only on the wing, or at the worst where cover is dense to use a .22 rifle without the aid of a dog.

The Call of Canada

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