

Hunting Wild Creatures with a Camera

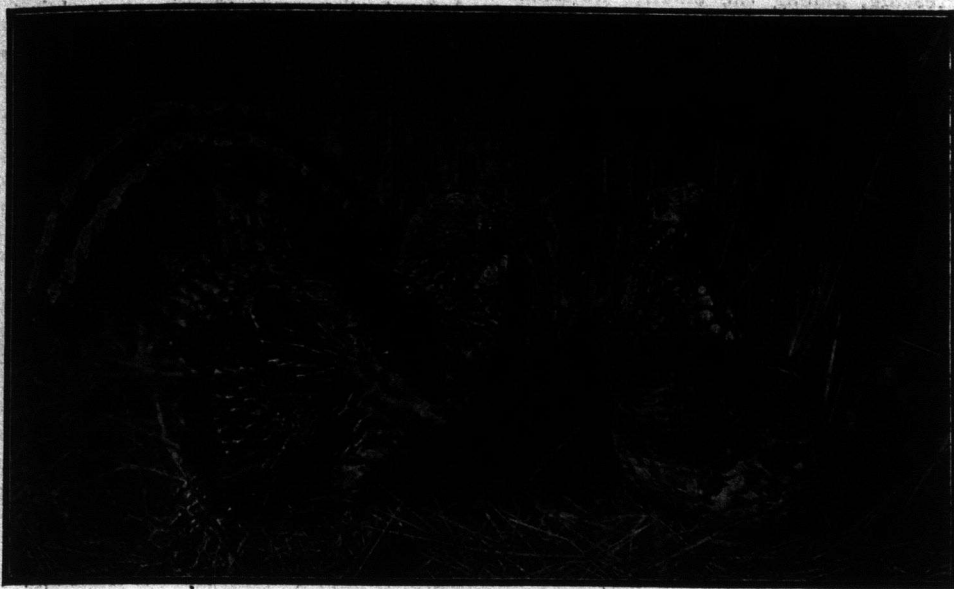
Written for the Western Home Monthly by Francis J. Dickie

TO those desirous of thrills, excitement, breathless moments, the hunting of big game, live wild animals and birds in this way offers a pastime that is replete in all three of the above elements.

The sport, for it comes more nearly under that head than any other, is also an arduous one. In comparison, the hunting of animals with a gun is a sinecure. To be successful in the latter, one needs only to have the most super-

tired of slaughtering monarchs of the wilderness have taken up the use of "film ammunition" offering as it does a diversion that is not lacking in the elements of excitement and danger.

Animals of any kind are not good posers and wild ones permit themselves to be taken only unawares. Of the greater game the elk is probably the most difficult to approach. Its fear of noise and habit of travelling sometimes for an entire day away from the spot



Canadian Ruffed Grouse (Partridge) making love. The bird is noted for its drumming sound, and like all drummers, is an ardent wooer.

ficial knowledge of the quarry which he sets out to take. This, coupled with fair eye sight, average acquaintance with the art of woodcraft and a modern gun and ammunition will nine times out of ten yield a fair bag. On the other hand the camera sportsman must be thoroughly informed upon every characteristic of the beast or bird which he goes after. Its power of sight, sense of smell, particular locality, wariness or ferocity must all be taken into account and allowance made for each of these before results can be obtained. This information—learned most often with the

where frightened sometimes makes necessary days and even weeks of following on the trail before a situation can be gained in which to capture it. Even the matter of picking up a fresh trail takes often many days of searching and then must be followed on foot as a horse makes too much noise in elk country. However the animal is not without its weak points. Though possessed of a powerful nose its sight and hearing are not nearly so keen as that of the smaller deer. So by taking due precautions and keeping in a position where the wind is from the elk to you, sooner or later it



Rocky Mountain Sheep are numerous in the fastnesses of the Canadian Rockies, making their homes upon the wind swept benches. From midwinter to autumn the rams often travel in couplets and even larger numbers. With the coming of autumn they join the ewes, which also, during this period, keep to themselves. Like the antelope the mountain sheep is polygamous and when two rams come upon a flock of ewes during this time their friendship immediately dissolves. The strongest and ablest fighter claims the flock. After joining the ewes in autumn the ram remains as leader and guardian until about midwinter when he again leaves. The young are born from the last weeks in May to the first week in June; the ewes have one or two lambs.

experienced gained from many failures—added to a thorough mastery of the camera, makes possible a new sport that is to-day finding many followers all over the world. It is intensely fascinating and even more spell binding than golf. Hunting in this way such big game animals as elk, antelope, moose and bear is hardly a field to be invaded by the man with a small purse unless he be situated right in one of these animal's particular territory. Generally speaking, it offers a welcome diversion to the moderate or very wealthy. Many of these,

becomes possible to take the desired photograph.

In the case of antelope, dwellers on wide, almost bare plains, long weary waits in some hidden spot, generally under a sweltering sun or in intense cold, is necessary; or stealthily crawling long distances along some dry coulee bottom.

With the moose an abundance of time is the chief requisite to successfully get its form on to a film. Its sense of smell and hearing are both acute and it has many little peculiarities that must be

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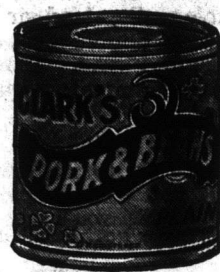
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