

## VANISHED AND VANISHING BIRDS

By P. A. TAVERNER,  
*Ornithologist to the Geological Survey.*

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VIEWED from the standpoint of the animals and birds with whom man comes in contact the tale of civilization is a ghastly one. Breeding grounds and habitats have been rendered unfit for habitation, natural food supplies destroyed, and the gunner is at every vantage point against the survivors. It is regrettable, but a fact, that of the wild life that once inhabited our country and which was the wonder of the early travellers, who exclaimed of the "great plenty of divers fowle and game," but a small part of our patrimony remains. Some species, it is true, have increased under the settlement of the land. Birds and vermin of the open fields and groves have found new habitat areas with the clearings and have thriven with their increased extent, but that great class of wild life commonly known as "game," as well as most of the larger forms not generally so classed, and which added such a touch of picturesque sentiment to our landscape, has been sadly reduced.

One has only to pick up early accounts of life in Canada or even glance at files of sporting papers still current like, "Forest and Stream," dated within the memory of still active sportsmen, to realize what a change has taken place. Some of this is inevitable. Great herds of bison roaming at will over the plains, or flocks of pigeons darkening the sky, are hardly compatible with cultivated fields and husbandry. These, however, were abnormalities, in most cases the loss to us has been serious and unnecessary.

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