

**MY FISHING DAYS AND FISHING WAYS: BEING  
A RECORD OF EXPERIENCES GATHERED  
DURING FORTY-SIX YEARS OF AN ANGLER'S  
LIFE WHILE FISHING FOR SO-CALLED COARSE  
FISHES IN THE WATERS AND STREAMS OF  
SIXTEEN COUNTIES AND TWENTY-FIVE RIVERS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649653812

My Fishing Days and Fishing Ways: Being a Record of Experiences Gathered during Forty-Six Years of an Angler's Life While Fishing for So-Called Coarse Fishes in the Waters and Streams of Sixteen Counties and Twenty-Five Rivers by J. W. Martin

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**J. W. MARTIN**

**MY FISHING DAYS AND FISHING WAYS: BEING  
A RECORD OF EXPERIENCES GATHERED  
DURING FORTY-SIX YEARS OF AN ANGLER'S  
LIFE WHILE FISHING FOR SO-CALLED COARSE  
FISHES IN THE WATERS AND STREAMS OF  
SIXTEEN COUNTIES AND TWENTY-FIVE RIVERS**





THE 1. 13.

**"THE HAMPER WAS UNPACKED"**  
**HARLINGTON LAKE, BEDFORDSHIRE**

Frontispiece

# MY FISHING DAYS AND FISHING WAYS

BEING A RECORD OF EXPERIENCES GATHERED DURING FORTY-  
SIX YEARS OF AN ANGLER'S LIFE WHILE FISHING FOR  
SO-CALLED COARSE FISHES IN THE WATERS AND  
STREAMS OF SIXTEEN COUNTIES AND  
TWENTY-FIVE RIVERS

BY

J. W. MARTIN

("THE TRENT OTTER")

AUTHOR OF "FLOAT FISHING IN THE NOTTINGHAM STYLE"

"BARBEL AND CHUB FISHING," "PIKE AND PERCH FISHING"

"ROACH AND BREAM FISHING IN MANY WATERS"

"PRACTICAL FISHING FOR THE SO-CALLED COARSE FISHES"

ETC. ETC.

*ILLUSTRATED*

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY

W. BRENDON & SON, LIMITED, PLYMOUTH

FOR

J. W. MARTIN & CO.

8 SEYMOUR STREET, EUSTON SQUARE

LONDON, N.W.

*(All rights reserved)*

ALSO BY THE SAME AUTHOR.

---

## "THE TRENT OTTER'S"

HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL BOOK ON

# ROACH AND BREAM FISHING IN MANY WATERS.

THE most complete book that has ever been penned on every method of taking Roach and Bream with Rod and Line, from the Fens of Lincolnshire across to the Hampshire Avon; from the Valley of the Trent to the Upper Thames; from the Bedford Ouse right down to Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, and Suffolk; from the Northamptonshire Nene down to the Sussex and Kentish tidal waters, &c. &c.

---

With full-page illustrations of well-known Fishing Spots.  
150 pages of Practical Hints.

---

*1000 copies of this book were sold in twelve weeks,  
and it was most favourably noticed by Sporting  
Editors in the columns of their papers.*

---

Mr. R. B. MARSTON, of the "Fishing Gazette," in an illustrated notice published in the issue of August 12th, 1906, says:—

"I can advise all anglers of the fish mentioned to obtain a copy of this work, as I am sure they will find it as interesting and valuable as I have done. Few men have had wider and longer experience in fishing the best of our coarse-fishing waters than Mr. Martin, who is a clear writer and a clever angler," &c. &c.

---

Stiff Paper Covers, 1/- each. Postage 2d. extra.  
Stout Laid Paper Edition in special Cloth Cover, 1/6.  
Postage 3d. extra.

---

**J. W. MARTIN & CO.,**

8 Seymour Street, Euston Square, London, N.W.

## PREFATORY NOTE

**M**Y Dear Brother Fisherman,—I make no apology for putting this volume on your already loaded bookshelves, because I have faith to believe that you will welcome this addition to the never-ending stream of angling literature.

The two volumes that I issued last year have met with phenomenal success, beyond my wildest hopes; and I thank my friends with a very grateful heart. To quote a well-known advertisement, they now "want more."

They are good enough to say that a volume of my own personal experiences and wanderings—on river, lake, and stream, here, there, and everywhere—would be warmly received by them, and treated in a sympathetic manner.

This volume does not pretend to be a guide to fishing, in the ordinary cut-and-dried sense of such term; but in its pages I take you into my confidence, and talk to you as one old fisherman talks to his mates, telling you what I saw on the various waters, the fish I found, how I succeeded and how I failed.

This book is a plain statement of fact and personal experiences, the pages of which furnish glimpses of natural history, descriptions of the waters and their characteristics, scenery and surroundings, together with a few historical notes connected therewith, which will perhaps have more than a passing interest for the wandering angler.

8  
1955  
(RBCAP)  
42228  
6196  
2



During forty-six years, in my spare time, and sometimes when it could ill be spared, I have roamed in sixteen counties, have cast my lines in the waters of twenty-five rivers, and have seen much to instruct and very much to interest.

It is for the coarse-fish angler that I have principally written these seventeen chapters.

Again I say that I lay no claim to any literary ability, but just talk to you as one old shopmate will talk to his fellows, and trust you will get one-tenth of the pleasure in reading my rough notes that I got in the long years during which I did the fishing recorded here.

To the thousands of members of the London Anglers Benevolent Society, and their courteous Secretary, W. H. Barber, Esq., in slight recognition of the great work they have done for many years in assisting suffering brothers of the Rod, the Author, a member of its management committee, respectfully dedicates this book.

The illustrations in this volume are from photos taken specially for it by my friends Mr. W. T. Lawrence and Mr. W. H. Barber, whose kindness in this matter I shall never forget, and hereby acknowledge.

*September, 1906.*

J. W. MARTIN,  
"THE TRENT OTTER."

# CONTENTS

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

	PAGE
Early days—The old fen gunner—Herons and frogs—Furred and feathered companions—The young ducks and the angler—The swimmer and the baited swim—The hungry anglers and the yard-long pudding . . . . .	1

## CHAPTER II

### THE ROACH FISHERMAN OF THE FENS

The wooden-legged angler—Fishing in the fens of Lincolnshire—A day's roach fishing—Personal experiences—Fishing in the South Fortyfoot . . . . .	10
--	----

## CHAPTER III

### BUSH FISHING FOR PERCH

(ON THE BANKS OF THE RIVER WITHAM)

The Mid-Witham in Lincolnshire—Insect collecting—The perch-fishing outfit—Paternoster tackle—How to fish for perch—Habits and haunts of perch—Perch in the frying-pan . . . . .	18
---	----

## CHAPTER IV

### TROUTING IN A TINY BROOK

(THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE GREET)

Looking back—The outfit for brook fishing—The little mill stream—The Nottinghamshire Greet—Fishing the streams . . . . .	28
--	----

## CHAPTER V

### A WINTER'S DAY DOWN THE LOWER TRENT

(THOUGHTS AND REFLECTIONS)

A winter's storm—Clifton and Dunham on the Lower Trent—The "Bridge Inn," Dunham—Swims, and what fish are found therein—Barbel and bream—Hudson, the professional . . . . .	36
--	----

## CONTENTS

<b>CHAPTER VI</b>	
<b>THE LOWER TRENT</b>	
(PISCATORIALLY AND HISTORICALLY CONSIDERED)	
Early recollections of the Lower Trent—Old Trent celebrities—Old times among the fish—Ancient history of the Trent—Floods and frosts—The thirty fish of the Trent . . . . .	PAGE 45
<b>CHAPTER VII</b>	
<b>A CHRISTMAS DISH</b>	
(WINTER CHUB FISHING)	
A winter's morning—Chub as a winter fish—Pith and brains—The chubbing outfit—Fishing the swims—What I found of interest . . . . .	57
<b>CHAPTER VIII</b>	
<b>A NEW YEAR'S BAG</b>	
(THOUGHTS AND EXPERIENCES ON THE GREAT OUSE)	
A New Year's day—On the fringes of the great fens—The dreamy, breamy Ouse—The pike-spinning outfit—The fight, and how to bait it—Fishing down the streams—A good brace, and a capital wind up . . . . .	66
<b>CHAPTER IX</b>	
<b>DAYS AMONG THE BARBEL</b>	
(ON THE TRENT, THAMES, AND KENNET)	
Barbel, and barbel rivers—Good bags—Where barbel abound—Ground baits, and hook baits—The peculiar biting of barbel—The outfit—Virgin swims—Good sport . . . . .	78
<b>CHAPTER X</b>	
<b>WITH THE CHUB, AND A FLY ROD</b>	
The haunts of big chub—Dangerous situations—The Ouse as a chub river—The Trent and its chub—The fly-fishing outfit—List of chub flies and their dressings—Fishing the stream—Night fishing for chub . . . . .	92
<b>CHAPTER XI</b>	
<b>EDDY AND STREAM</b>	
(CADBAITS AND WASP-GRUBS, DURING THE EARLY SUMMER)	
Fishing down the shallow streams—The outfit for it—Hook baits and ground baits—Cadbaits and wasp-grubs—Famous shallow streams—A good bag of chub—Dock grubs . . . . .	104