

# **GAME FARMING FOR PROFIT AND PLEASURE**

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Game Farming for Profit and Pleasure by Dwight Williams Huntington

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**DWIGHT WILLIAMS HUNTINGTON**

**GAME FARMING  
FOR PROFIT AND  
PLEASURE**



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# GAME FARMING

FOR  
PROFIT AND PLEASURE

## A MANUAL

on the wild turkeys, grouse, quail or partridges, wild ducks and the introduced pheasants and gray partridges: with special reference to their food, habits, control of natural enemies and the best methods of preserving and breeding: including, also, an appendix on powder, loads, etc.,

by

the author of  
"OUR FEATHERED GAME"

*Dwight Williams Huntington*

Fully illustrated with photographs  
and many original drawings

by

*Clement B. Davis*

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BY

**HERCULES POWDER CO.**

Wilmington, Del., U.S.A.

## FOREWORD

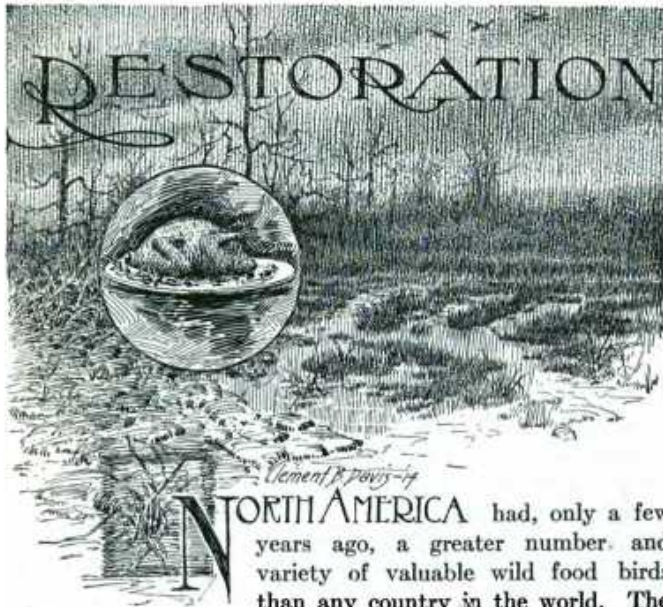
*7-25-40*  
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*7-25-40*  
**T**HIS little book is offered to the people of North America in the hope that it will hasten the day when our continent shall produce enough game to supply abundant food, and health-giving recreation.

*Revised*  
The author predicts that America will eventually be the greatest game producing country in the world, and we believe he points the logical way for the fulfillment of this prophecy. It is time for us to unite in creating, through our own industry, a wealth of wild life to take the place of that which nature gave us, and we so thoughtlessly destroyed. Heretofore our energies have been mainly expended in trying to bring back the game by prohibitory legislation. Our laws have said, "You must not kill game," instead of "You may raise game." These laws have undoubtedly done much good in a negative way, but they offer no real solution of the problem. They are not creative. Some of them we shall probably need always, but many of them will become obsolete shortly after laws permitting game breeding are enacted. Prohibitions which seem important when there is little game to protect will become superfluous when a large supply is constantly maintained.

*7-25-40*  
In promoting game breeding, the Hercules Powder Company naturally considers its own interests, but fortunately they are inalienably linked with the country's welfare in this important matter. We feel no hesitancy in asking all sportsmen who believe our efforts are in the right direction, to support them by giving us their patronage.

*7-25-40*  
We take pleasure in acknowledging our indebtedness to the American Museum of Natural History for photographs and drawings made from its collections. They appear on pages 11, 21, 24, 30, 32, 35, 40, 41, 42, 43, 45, 51 (bottom of page), 53, 56, 58, 60.





**N**ORTH AMERICA had, only a few years ago, a greater number and variety of valuable wild food birds than any country in the world. The records of two guns shooting, with muzzle-loaders, over a hundred wood-cock in a day, quite near New York; of the shooting of over a hundred bay snipe at a single discharge; of the shooting of wagon loads of prairie grouse and wild ducks, seem incredible, but they are authentic as recorded in our ornithologies. Bogardus tells us that with a friend he shot three hundred and forty Wilson's snipe one day, in Illinois, and Mr. Pringle, in his history of "The Snipery," in Louisiana, records the taking of thousands of these toothsome birds during a season, shooting day after day over marshes near the house. Cody (Buffalo Bill) records the killing of four or five hundred wild turkeys at one camp in the West. The placing of a bounty on the ruffed grouse, in Massachusetts, because it was considered too abundant for the successful growing of fruit; the destruction of prairie grouse, in Kentucky, because, as Audubon says, they were regarded as pests, and many more recent records might be cited to prove the former



great abundance of our true game birds of the upland and our wild fowl and waders. The writer was present one day, in Ohio, when the bag contained over a hundred and fifty quail besides ruffed grouse and wood-cock, and a few wood-duck and miscellaneous birds and rabbits for good measure. The bags always were large although we shot day after day over a comparatively small area.

Our ornithologists and sporting writers deplore the rapid disappearance of this wonderful food supply and often they predict the extermination of game in America. Some recommend, continually, more stringent game laws, limiting or prohibiting sport, but, since the game has continued to vanish notwithstanding such enactments, many have doubted the possibility of saving the more valuable upland species if any shooting be permitted. There is good reason for the doubt. A large and ever increasing number of guns, each taking only a few birds during a short open season, undoubtedly produces the same result which was produced by a smaller number of guns, each taking a larger number of birds during a long open season. All naturalists agree that the absolute prohibition of field sports does some good only when the species has not been too much decimated to survive its natural enemies. All agree that even a little shooting is too much, unless the game enemies be controlled, because any slight additional check to the increase of a species must cause it rapidly to decrease in numbers. The prohibition of sport, which we have been facing, is highly undesirable. Fortunately we now know that it is unnecessary.

Field sports need no defence or apology in so far as the readers of this little book are concerned. Their enemies do not realize the importance of the health-giving exercise which they denounce, or the economic value of the food which field sports can be made to produce. The distinguished ornithologist, Elliot, in his book on our gallinaceous game birds, refers to the pleasure they yield and the incentive they provide for action and effort, "when in the leafy aisles of whispering forests, or in the thickets and along the banks of the leaping stream, or in the open sky-encircled prairie, man in his quest for these game-like creatures, aided by his faithful dog, finds



renewed health and strength to wrestle with the toils and troubles of his daily life."

The food value of our game birds becomes more and more important as the prices of beef and mutton continue to rise, as it seems they must, as population increases. The restoration of field sports and the propagation and practical protection of our game birds have become of great economic importance. I am pleased to observe that the tendency of our legislation is in the direction of encouraging the profitable production of game. I firmly believe, with the aid of intelligent State Game Officers, the sportsmen and game farmers of America can make the game birds more plentiful than they ever were, using only a small portion of the lands suitable for game which long have been posted against all shooting. As we shall observe, the natural enemies of game and the dogs and cats, and illegal gunners must be controlled on some of the breeding grounds if field sports are to be perpetuated in America. Since it is absolutely necessary that our game be properly preserved and multiplied on some of the farms with the farmer's consent, I am in favor of it. There is no danger of game preserving being overdone. The country is too big. We should remember, also, that for the most part it must be done on the farms where shooting already is prohibited and that such industry can harm no one.

The area of the public forests and parks in America is said to be larger than the area of Germany. The area of our public waters and marshes, where sport is free to all comers, is many times as big as such areas are in the older countries, where the market gunners are permitted to shoot. Our prejudice against the producers of game has disappeared rapidly and now that we know our game must become extinct if any shooting be permitted and no one looks after its increase, I predict that all prejudice against the producers soon will vanish just as the prejudice against many modern inventions has vanished when it was ascertained to be founded upon an ignorance of the good results soon to follow. In the states where game breeding has been encouraged by legislation there is no longer any objection to such industry. A broiled grouse, properly served, may be made to convert an enemy of sport, and an abundance of game