

FUR, FEATHER, AND FIN SERIES: THE FOX

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649294787

Fur, feather, and Fin series: The fox by Thomas F. Dale

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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THOMAS F. DALE

**FUR, FEATHER, AND
FIN SERIES: THE FOX**

FUR, FEATHER, & FIN SERIES

edited by

ALFRED E. T. WATSON

THE FOX



GLEANNING AFTER THE SHOOTERS

THE FOX

BY

THOMAS F. DALE

JOINT AUTHOR OF 'POLO' IN THE BADMINTON LIBRARY



WITH EIGHT ILLUSTRATIONS BY ARCHIBALD THORBURN
AND G. D. GILES

LONGMANS, GREEN, AND CO.

39 PATERNOSTER ROW, LONDON

NEW YORK AND BOMBAY

1906

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PREFACE

THE design of the *Fur, Feather, and Fin Series* is to present monographs, as complete as they can possibly be made, on the various English birds, beasts and fishes which are generally included under the head of Game.

Books on Natural History cover such a vast number of subjects that their writers necessarily find it impossible to deal with each in a really comprehensive manner ; and it is not within the scope of such works exhaustively to discuss the animals described in the light of objects of sport. Books on sport, again, seldom treat at length of the Natural History of the creatures which are shot or otherwise taken ; and, so far as the Editor is aware, in no book hitherto published on Natural History or Sport has information been given as to the best methods of turning the contents of the bag to account.

Each volume of the present Series is, therefore, devoted to a bird, beast, or fish. The creature's origin is traced, its birth and breeding described, and all the sportsman's methods of dealing with it are set forth. In previous books of the series the subjects have only been left when on the table in the most appetising forms which the delicate science of cookery has discovered, but the culinary chapter does not come into the scope of this book : the fox is devoured *au naturel*.

ALFRED E. T. WATSON.

PREFACE TO 'THE FOX'

MUCH has been written about the fox, but his varied history has never been told. A book on the fox might easily have been expanded into a history of foxhunting. But my plan has been to write the story of the animal from his own point of view. Even where foxhunting is touched upon, the object has been to illustrate the manners and intelligence of the creature rather than to dwell on the skill and courage of his pursuers.

It will be seen that the fox has been of importance to man, not only since the rise of foxhunting, but at all periods of history. The naturalist, the sportsman, the moralist, and the student of animal psychology have each and all found the beast an interesting subject of thought and study. But when we begin to study the