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Woodcock Rising



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Synopsis

It seems as though wherever wingshooters and dog people get together, and the talk turns to the things they read and the writers they respect, the name Steve Smith is one of the first mentioned. His biography includes over 35 years as on outdoor editor and involvement in the sporting industry. But through all of this, there was always woodcock. Smith did his graduate work on them, has hunted them in a dozen states and provinces, waits impatiently for the spring skydancing displays, and still can t sleep the night before the season opens. In the words of famed author Tom Davis: Other gamebirds excite; the woodcock beguiles. With his inimitable blend of wit, insight, expansive knowledge, and deep but lightly worn wisdom,Steve Smith beautifully chronicles his lifelong love affair with this enigmatic charmer a journey sure to delight all of us who ve had our hearts similarly stolen. For a long time, I ve been of the opinion that one book, Guy de la ValdÃƒÂ¨ne s Making Game,belonged in the library of every woodcock devotee. Now, with Woodcock Rising, there are two.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Steve Smith never calls woodcock timberdoodles because it makes them sound like witless morons, and they’re not. His new book, Woodcock Rising, shows why woodcock can be some of the most challenging and rewarding gamebirds to hunt. The book could be described as a practical memoir. Its style is conversational and its earnest prose pays full due to that magical shorebird of the uplands. It is illustrated with more than 20 high-quality drawings by Smith’s son, Christopher. A resident of Michigan (the nation’s top woodcock state for both harvest and hunter days), Smith has

been an outdoor writer and editor for 35 years. He launched Shooting Sportsman and today edits The Pointing Dog Journal and The Retriever Journal. Smith is the author of 20 books, including Woodcock Shooting, Hunting Upland Game Birds and The Whispering Wings of Autumn (co-authored with Gene Hill), hunting woodcock both In the Northern states and on the birds' Southern wintering grounds. It also has information on how to sex and age woodcock, plus it entertains with anecdotes about Smith's own hunts, mainly in the Great Lakes States. There are chapters on Woodcock Cover Woodcock Flights (including detailed scientific information about migratory patterns and behaviors), Woodcock Shooting (with advice on guns Smith favors a lightweight British 16-gauge with 28-gauge chamber inserts) and The Future of Woodcock Hunting. In the chapter Woodcock Recipes, Smith passes along his own favorites plus those from other hunters. Woodcock Rising retails for $39.95 from Wilderness Adventures Press (866-400-2012; wildadvpress.com). A limited edition of 100 books will be available for $200 through Great Lakes Fly Fishing Company, 800-303-0567. --Charles Fergus, Shooting Sportsman magazineAuthor Steve Smith is known to upland bird hunters in a wide variety of ways. He's written hundreds of magazine articles and 19, now 20, books. As a publishing executive, he's launched 11 magazines (including Shooting Sportsman), he's a conservationist who co-founded Woodcock Limited, and he currently edits both The Pointing Dog Journal and The Retriever Journal. In his spare time, Smith has launched two book-publishing houses. All of that was accomplished in between dog training and bird hunting, and Smith's latest effort is Woodcock Rising, one of his favorite game birds. Smith covers all familiar subjects relevant to hunting this enigmatic bird: covers and habitat, behavior and migration, shotguns, shells and chokes, and bird dogs. Smith's style is conversational and welcoming, and he writes like he's talking with you in camp. In the process, he shares wisdom accumulated over half a century of hunting one of our favorite birds. Beginners certainly will benefit from his advice, but Smith dispenses highly technical information that will elevate even the most serious hard-core hunter's game. What is most engaging is his dry humor, for it is the kind of wry wit that all upland bird aficionados understand and appreciate. You will not politely guffaw while reading Woodcock Rising; instead you'll think for a moment and then launch a full-belly roar. The 172-page page book is expertly illustrated by Christopher Smith. The watercolor-cover provides a towering 'doodle in such vivid display that readers may drop the hardback and dry-mount an invisible double-gun. Numerous line-drawings are tastefully spread throughout the chapters, and they feature the nuances understood and appreciated by woodcock hunters. The artist's passion is evident, for he in fact has shared coverts with the author. Small wonder, for apples don't fall (far) from their trees; Christopher is the author's son. Fortunate is he who has grown up under that tree. Like the

author’s diverse career, you can read Woodcock Rising in a variety of ways. For maximum appreciation, enjoy a chapter each night this fall while in bird camp. Or, read it during the winter as a way to pass the time until Spring dog work. If you miss those two times, enjoy it in the hammock during summer’s heat; it’ll fire up your passion for the upcoming season. Woodcock Rising is published by Wilderness Adventures Press. A limited edition of 100 signed copies is currently available for $200 each and includes a slipcase, an extra chapter and additional illustrations. --Woodcock Limited Staff, Skydance MagazineWoodcock Rising, an eloquently simple phrase that depicts imagery in one’s mind. The image could be an alder-strewn creek bottom in the Northeast, young growth popple in the upÃ Â- per Midwest, the ew Jersey Cape or Louisiana lowlands. The common denominator in all of these mental images is habitat. Woodcock Rising is also the eloquently simple title of Steve Smith’s new book, published by Wilderness Adventures Press, Inc., Belgrade Montana. As a sporting author, Steve Smith needs no introduction. His track record of writing and editing wingshooting books and arÃ Â- ticles stands alone. With the release of Woodcock Rising he has raised even his own standard. In the realm of wingshooting books, there typically are two styles: lyrical and how to. It seems every book penned is in one or the other voice. In Woodcock Rising, the author has blendÃ Â- ed both formats into a unified voice that provides not only bioÃ Â- logical and technical data, but the practical wisdom and expeÃ Â- rience from years of hunting this mystical bird. He writes in an authoritative tone, while not being the loud know-it-all that we’ve all met at the gun club. Yet his passages flow as if you were joining him for a mid-winter cocktail to reminiscence of seasons past. I found this tone thoroughly enjoyable. I am not alone in this view. John B. Eichinger, president and CEO of RGS & AWS who wrote the foreword, said: ’Steve’s lighthearted writing style is entertaining, but don’t deÃ Â- ceive yourself into thinking that’s all this book has to offer. It’s packed full of valuable information that will make it a book to be read over and over again.’ As in most books of this sort, the author has included chapters on dogs, guns, recipes and such. These chapters are strong and full of sound advice, a culmination of experience, from hours traipsing coverts. These views may not be accepted by many as gospel, but they are certainly valid and should be pondered withÃ Â- out kennel blindness. With that stated, the biological-based chapters regarding the bird itself, habitat and its migration must also be mentioned. Whether you are a seasoned woodcock huntÃ Â- er or just joining the ranks, these chapters will enhance your next day in the field. The chapter titled Woodcock Flights provides insight not only to woodcock migration, but the current GPS reÃ Â- search that is being utilized - research that will certainly help with woodcock habitat projects along the migration path. Adorning the pages of Woodcock Rising are illustrations by the author’s son, Christopher Smith. When Wilderness

Adventures Press chose this artist, they did so due to talent, not nepotism. Chris's original line drawings enhance his father's words, in a firm, yet subtle fashion - sketches that resonate crispness, yet are soft, so not to overpower the readers eye - illustrations that exhibÃ Â- it an old-school hand in a digital age. Woodcock Rising is simply, a well written treatise, regarding an eloquent bird. --Glen Blackwood, Ruffed Grouse Society

As an editor, Steve Smith is one of the two longest-serving,continuous outdoor editors in history thirty-five years and counting. In his long career as a writer, he has written hundreds of magazine articles, and Woodcock Rising is his twentieth book. His friends,hunting partners, cohorts, and collaborators include the likes of the late Michael McIntosh and Gene Hill. As a publishing executive, Smith has launched eleven magazines, including the prestigious Shooting Sportsman; started two book-publishing houses; and has been responsible for a division of a company that produces thirty-six titles.

I purchased the book for my husband who loved to hunt with his dog. He loves the book.

Very fun and informative read. Got a copy for myself and for my friend who's now retired from bird hunting. Excellent read and would recommend it for someone who loves to chase birds with dogs.

Really enjoyed the book. Well written. Only problem is if you are from Louisiana, like I am, by his own admission he has very little local information for us. I am also informed that Mr Smith was not very well received at a local banquet in Louisiana and there are those down here who don't care what he has to say.

A quality book on a much overlooked game bird written by a gentleman in the know. Enlightening!

Wonderful - Great book!

Perfect!!!

Steve Smith blends technical data about the bird with musings from a lifetime filled with dogs, guns, and treasured companions.Paired with exceptional sketches by award winning artist, Christopher Smith, this book deserves a place of honor on any woodcock aficionado's shelf.

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