



**A YEAR'S RECORD.**

**LIST OF PROMINENT MATCHES AND EVENTS SHOT IN 1896.**

**Improvement in Trap Shooting Scores—New Men to the Front—Wonderful Shooting Done by Prominent Pigeon Poppers.**

The season of 1896 has seen some important matches in trap shooting circles, and some of the biggest events this country has ever seen were held during the year just closed. It is very interesting to look over the account of some of the matches between the most prominent marksmen and also to note the general improvement in scores by the majority of trap shooters. Take the inanimate target shooting for instance. A few years ago the leaders could almost be counted on the fingers of your two hands, but now it would require the assistance of a centipede to count up the successful and expert trap shots of this country. Every country gun club has several men who will average 90 to 95 per cent. for the day and think nothing about it.

At any of the big tournaments there will be any number of men who will average over the 90 per cent. mark for two, three or four days' shooting. Where one or two men were the leaders in a tournament a few years ago a dozen can now be found fighting for the top.

**THERE ARE REASONS** for this general improvement in shooting. The guns have been improved, the shells brought to perfection to give the best possible results with nitro powder. The powders have been constantly improved to give the very best patterns, and even the wadding has received considerable attention. The shooters themselves have studied the art of shooting and devoted more time and money in perfecting themselves in the art of wing shooting.

The loading of shells to give the very best possible results has been the aim of many men engaged in this business, and while the shooting is, if anything, more difficult than formerly, the records continue to climb toward the hundred mark.

There is every possible chance for a person to learn to shoot now, as every town and hamlet has its gun club and cities of any size have several shooting grounds where men interested in the sport can experiment with guns and shells, or study the art of wing shooting by watching their more experienced brother gunners. Some gun clubs shoot only at live birds, while others use inanimate targets exclusively. Many clubs have their grounds arranged for both live birds and target shooting, and in this way give their members the choice of targets.

**IT IS INTERESTING** to note the remarkable scores that have been made within the last few months. However, we will give a short review of the prominent tournaments held in this country, or, at last, in the Eastern, Middle and Southern States, for the past season, and some of the best scores made in individual matches. It will be noticed that in some matches the scores are remarkably high, and perhaps at another time the scores will be ridiculously low, even with the same men shooting. This may be due to bad weather, poor light or backgrounds or the quality of birds, if live targets are used, or the difference in scores may be caused by a falling off in the "form" or shooting conditions of the men contesting.

**THE MONTH OF JANUARY** saw many team matches. Big sweeps and individual matches were shot at live birds and targets, and we will give the result of the most important. In all cases, unless mentioned, the rules were A. S. A., for live birds or targets.

Walter Watrous, of New York, won the \$250 cup and first money, \$500, at the live bird shoot of the Westminster Kennel Club, at Babylon, L. I., on New Year's Day. There were 41 entries, and he won on 11 out of 12 birds killed, the other contestants withdrawing on misses.

Jacob Koch defeated F. Emond in a match at 100 birds, 30 yards rise, at Buffalo, N. Y., on New Year's Day, by killing 84 by his opponent's 81.

John Rothaker, of Philadelphia, defeated F. Leonard in a match at 100 live birds, at Zwerlein's grounds, at Yardville, N. J., on January 3. Rothaker killed 75 and Leonard 60 out of 100 birds, 30 yards rise.

Twenty-five trap shooters of Philadelphia defeated a like number from the State of Delaware on the Keystone Shooting League grounds, at Philadelphia, on January 4, by breaking 487 to 481 targets; each man shot at 25 targets.

On January 7, at Woodlawn, L. I., Louis Davenport, of Glen Cove, L. I., killed 47 out of 50 live birds, 28 yards' rise; using but one hand.

At San Antonio, Texas, on January 7, S. 9 and 10, some fine records were made. On the first day Fred. Gilbert averaged 943 per cent. On the second day Gilbert averaged 947 per cent. On the third day Parmelee averaged 958 per cent. On the fourth day Connors averaged 988 per cent.,

and on the fifth day Parmelee averaged 975 per cent. For the five days' shooting Heikes led with an average of 933 per cent., breaking 719 out of 760 targets shot at. Dickey won second best average for the five days, with 927 per cent. Parmelee and Connor third, with 925 per cent. each, and Gilbert fourth, with 923 per cent.

Edgar Murphy won the cup at the Larchmont Gun Club shoot on January 10 and 11. He was tied by Chas. Macalester, each man killing 92 out of 100 birds, at 30 yards rise. They divided \$980, and Murphy won the cup in the tie. There were 14 entries.

A. H. King and J. Shaffer divided first money in a sweep at 100 targets, at Pittsburgh, Pa., on January 14, each breaking 87 out of 100.

The New Utrecht Gun Club, of Brooklyn, defeated a team from the Riverton Gun Club, of Philadelphia, on January 15, by the score of 160 to 157. The match was shot at Riverton, with ten men in each team, and 20 birds to a man.

On January 15 J. K. Palmer defeated Geo. Work in a match at 100 birds, by killing 87 to 79, at Westminster Kennel Club grounds, at Babylon, L. I.

Fred. Emond defeated J. Koch in a 100 bird match, at Buffalo, N. Y., on January 15, by killing 91 to 88.

At Rutherford, N. J., on January 18, a team of 22 men from the Boiling Springs Gun Club defeated a like number of men from the New Utrecht Gun Club, of Brooklyn, by the score of 391 to 369. Each man shot at 25 targets.

At the Westminster Kennel Club grounds, at Babylon, L. I., on January 22, Geo. Work and Edgar Murphy defeated J. K. Palmer and Yale Dolan, in a team match. Work killed 84 and Murphy 83, a total of 167. Palmer killed 86 and Dolan 80, a total of 166. All stood at 30 yards and shot at 100 birds each.

At Buffalo, N. Y., on January 22, Fred. Emond defeated J. Koch by killing 88 to 71 out of 100 live birds. This made Emond winner of two out of three matches shot.

At Baltimore, on January 22, Chas. Macalester won first money alone in a 20-bird sweep, by killing straight. Eighteen men were entered.

At the Philadelphia Gun Club grounds, on January 24, J. K. Palmer, of New York, won the cup and divided first money in a 50 bird sweep, by killing 45 out of 50. Chas. Macalester killed 45, but in the tie was defeated for the cup.

At Pittsburgh, Pa., on January 30, Bessemer won first money alone in a 25 bird sweep, by killing straight. 14 entries.

At Albany, N. Y., on January 30, H. Sanders broke 96 out of 100 targets in a sweep.

**IN FEBRUARY**

a number of important events were decided and some individual matches between noted pigeon shots took place.

On Feb. 6, at Pittsburgh, Dr. Cundall, of Washington, Pa., defeated A. H. King, of Pittsburgh, in a 100 bird match by killing 89 to 87.

J. A. R. Elliott defeated Tom Morfe in a match at 100 pigeons at Paterson, N. J., on Feb. 8, by killing 91 to 87. Both stood at 30 yards. Elliott using the Winchester repeating gun.

Will Clark won first money in a 25 bird sweep at Dexter Park, L. I., on Feb. 10 by killing 23 out of the 25 birds; 20 men were entered, including Brewer, Class and Elliott.

On Feb. 13 at Washington, Pa., A. H. King, of Pittsburgh, defeated Dr. Cundall, of Washington, Pa., by killing 94 to 85 out of 100 birds shot at.

On Feb. 14 at Zwerlein's grounds at Yardville, N. J., Ike Budd, of Pemberton, N. J., and Ed. Hill, of Trenton, tied in a match at 100 birds each, killing 84.

At Zwerlein's grounds at Yardville, N. J., on Feb. 14, Ike Budd and Ed. Hill tied again in a 100 bird match, each killing 87.

On Feb. 15 the Boiling Springs Gun Club of Rutherford, N. J., with 21 men defeated a like number of men from the New Utrecht Gun Club of Brooklyn. Each man shot at 25 targets. Score: Boiling Springs 376, New Utrecht 370.

Frank Class, of Morristown, N. J., defeated John L. Brewer in a match at 100 live birds at Dexter Park, L. I., on Feb. 21 by the score of 74 to 66. To use the old stereotyped term "the birds were first-class." Brewer stood at 33 yards and Class at 30 yards.

At Louisville, Ky., on Feb. 22 Rolla Heikes broke 100 targets from five traps in 5 minutes and 36 seconds.

At Rochester, N. Y., on Feb. 22 a team of 31 men from the Rochester Gun Club defeated a team of the same number of men from the Audubon Gun Club, of Buffalo, N. Y., by breaking 654 to 589. Each man shot at 25 targets.

The Garden City Gun Club, of Chicago, defeated the Limited Gun Club, of Indianapolis, Ind., on Feb. 22, in a telegraph match by the score of 204 to 200. Ten men shot in a team at 25 targets.

Dr. Cundall defeated A. H. King at Pittsburgh on Feb. 25 by killing 85 to 84 out of 100 live birds. Cundall won two out of the three matches.

At the Keystone League grounds at Philadelphia on Feb. 29 Joe Leaming broke 96 out of 100 targets for the Pack trophy. Nine men were entered.

At Babylon, L. I., Edgar Murphy defeated George Work in a match at 200 live birds for \$1000 a side by killing 152 to 150.

Houston defeated B. Ballard at Louisville, Ky., in a target match by breaking 95 to 93 out of 100 targets.

**THE MONTH OF MARCH**

was a good one in trap shooting circles, as the Grand American Handicap was decided at Long Branch and several big sweeps were shot.

On March 2, at Buffalo, N. Y., B. Smith defeated George Moshier, of Syracuse, N. Y., at 50 birds, by killing 43 to 34.

At Reading, Pa., on March 6, 13 men from Philadelphia defeated a like number from Reading in a team match at targets; each man shot at 25. Score, Phila., 265; Reading, 223.

On March 11, at Buffalo, George Moshier defeated B. Smith, by killing 39 to 38.

At Elkwood Park, Long Branch, N. J.,

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On March 26, Orrin Dickey, of Boston, won the Grand American Handicap. This event had 104 contestants, at \$25 entrance, and was a handicap affair. Eight men killed 24 out of 25, and in the shoot-off of ties Dickey killed six straight and won first. S. Glover, second; George Coulson, third; R. O. Heikes, fourth. Thirteen men killed 23 out of 25. The other contestants withdrew before reaching the 25th round. The men tied on 24 divided the money, which amounted to \$1957. The men on 23 divided \$760.40.

At Riverton, N. J., on March 27, Thomas S. Dando won first money, \$662.50, in a 100-bird sweep, \$100 entrance, with 13 entries. His score was 91 out of 100.

At Detroit, Mich., John Parker won a handicap match at targets by breaking 76 out of 100.

At Philadelphia, on March 28, Gus Muller killed 40 to 39 for Al. Baltz in a 50-bird match.

**MATCHES IN APRIL.**

At Buffalo, on April 1, F. D. Kelsey and B. Smith tied in a 50-bird match, each killing 39.

At Chicago, on April 4, Fred Gilbert, of Spirit Lake, Iowa, defended the Du Pont live-bird trophy against Isaac Budd, of Pemberton, N. J., killing 92 out of 100 live birds, 30 yards rise, to 72 for Budd.

At Philadelphia, on April 9, 16 men from Philadelphia defeated a like number from Reading in a team match at targets, by the score of 334 to 306.

At Riverton, N. J., on April 10, Leonard Finletter defeated George Coulson in a 100-bird match by the score of 90 to 75.

At San Francisco, April 11, M. A. Feudner won the State championship at live birds, by killing 20 straight. Crit Robinson tied him and lost by a bird in the tie.

At Cleveland, April 14, D. A. Upson broke 50 straight Blue Rocks for the Wallace cup.

At Atchison, Kan., April 14, 15, 16 and 17, Rolla Heikes won best average for four days in open events, with 923 1/2 per cent. C. W. Budd and F. Gilbert 90 1/2, Parmelee 88 2-3, counting 320 targets shot at.

At Rutherford, N. J., April 16, Boiling Spring defeated Endeavor Gun Club, 10 men on a side, 207 to 184.

At Pittsburgh, on April 18, C. A. May killed 97 out of 100 live birds in a 100-bird sweep.

At Boston, April 23, Captain B. O. Bartlett broke 93 targets straight in sweepstakes. B. Leroy averaged 95 per cent. for 230 shots at same place.

At Morristown, N. J., April 23, Frank Class killed 18 and Tom Morfe 17 in a match at 25 live birds, Long Island rules.

At Pittsburgh, April 23, D. A. Upson defeated T. Hostetter by killing 95 to 89 out of 100 live birds, 30 yards rise.

At Houston, Tex., on April 24, A. W. Du Bray won live-bird championship of Texas by killing 18 out of 20. Four others tied him, but lost in the shoot-off.

**SCORES IN MAY.**

At Milwaukee May 2 George Deiter won live bird championship of State by killing 24 out of 25 live birds.

At New York May 5, 6, 7 and 8 Fred Gilbert won individual championship at inanimate targets, thrown under three different rules by breaking 266 out of 300 shot at, Elliott and Fulford scored 261, Heikes 258. For best general average for four days, counting 700 targets shot at, Gilbert won first, breaking 643, an average of 918 per cent. Heikes won second,

breaking 636, an average of 908 per cent. Elliott and Leroy third 624, Fulford fifth 620, Upson sixth 615, Parmelee seventh 614, Budd eighth 611.

At Weir City, Kan., May 9, W. W. McIlhenny won State championship at live birds by defeating C. H. Calhoun, killing 43 to 39 out of 50.

At Memphis, Tenn., May 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 Powers won first average on first day, 960 per cent.; Budd first on second day, 939 per cent.; Elliott first on fourth day, 981 per cent., breaking 162 out of 165, having a run of 95 straight. For the four days, counting 660 targets shot at, C. W. Budd won best average, with 94 per cent., Parmelee 933 per cent., Bartlett and Elliott 931 per cent., Heikes 924 per cent. In a 25 live bird sweep on fifth day Budd, Rike, Heikes, Poston and W. Miller killed 25 straight, eight men killed 23 and four killed 22.

At Cincinnati May 19 Tom Marshall defeated C. A. Bogardus in a 50-target match by breaking 47 to 35. At same place and date H. G. Wheeler defeated C. Bogardus in a 100 target match by breaking 82 to 80.

At Kansas City, Mo., May 19, 20, 21, 22 and 23 the Missouri State shoot was held. On May 23 J. E. Riley, of Kansas City, won the "Star" championship live bird cup by killing 25 birds straight and defeating Dr. Whittier in the tie. At same place C. Cottleb won State championship by killing 24 out of 25 birds, shooting out six men in the tie.

At Cincinnati, May 19, 20 and 22, at the tournament of the Hazard Powder Company Redwing won best average on second day, Gilbert on third day and again on fourth day. Rolla Heikes won Hazard prize for best average in certain events, breaking 143 out of 150 targets. Redwing seconds, 142, and Budd third, 141. For best general average for three days Gilbert won first, breaking 474 out of 510 shot at, an average of 929 per cent.; Heikes second, 473 broken, average 927 per cent.; Budd third, 468, average 917 per cent.; Redwing, 466, average 913 per cent.; Dickey, 465, average 911 per cent.; Glover, 460, 901 per cent.

At Peoria, Ill., May 25 and 26 Fred Gilbert won best average.

At Indianapolis on May 27 Heikes won best average under expert rules, averaging 92 per cent. Ralph Trimble won first average on second day, averaging 906 per cent. under expert rules.

At Milwaukee on May 29 J. A. R. Elliott made a run of 105 targets straight in sweepstakes events.

At Canajoharie, N. Y., on May 30 E. J. Fulford won first average, with 95 per cent. at targets.

**JUNE SHOOTING.**

At Chicago, June 1, George Deiter, of Milwaukee, defeated Fred Gilbert for the Du Pont live bird trophy by killing 84 to 83 birds out of 100 at 30 yards rise.

At Chicago, June 2, 3, 4 and 5, the Illinois State shoot was given. Dick Merrill, of Milwaukee, won the E. C. cup in an open event at 25 targets, scoring 25 straight, and shooting out Heikes, Frothingham, King and Patterson in the tie. Chauncey Powers won championship of State at targets by breaking 19 out of 20 and defeating Dr. Carver, Eich and Dr. Frothingham in the tie. Albert Bacon won the Board of Trade diamond medal by killing 10 live birds straight and defeating 12 men in the tie. The Evanston Gun Club won team championship on live birds with four men to a team, killing 38 out of 40. Dick Merrill and C. W. Budd