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JOHN CHARLES PHILLIPS — Naturalist, World Traveler, Author



Theodore J. Holsten
EMERITUS MEMBER
Boone and Crockett Club

Born to wealth and position in 1876, John Phillips followed a long family tradition, graduating from Harvard in 1899 and then obtaining an M.D. degree from Harvard Medical School in 1904.

Although he never practiced medicine in a professional capacity, he felt the need to help during the Great War. In 1915 he obtained a commission in the Royal Army Medical Corps, and then, with the entry of the United States into the war in 1917, he joined the U.S. Army Medical Corps where he served until 1919 including many months in France and Germany.

Dr. Phillips had a keen interest in natural history and he was a prolific writer. His published works included more than 200 titles, the earliest of which was *Boyhood Journals, 1887-92*, a diary that commences when he was eleven years old. This early work already reflected his growing interest in the outdoors, first with fishing, and later with upland hunting for ducks and other birds.

Traveling to remote areas throughout the world—Asia, Europe, Africa, the American West—Dr. Phillips was a keen big game hunter, but, in addition, he had a strong interest in conservation and in the natural history of the areas he visited. The region of the present Glacier National Park attracted him long before it became a national reservation and several of its prominent geographical features still bear the names he gave them. While still in college in 1896, he accompanied Peary on one of his North Polar expeditions.

Foremost in Dr. Phillips' interest was waterfowl and his massive four-volume work titled, *A Natural History of the Ducks*. This was a monumental work, which included illustrations by Fuertes, Benson and Brooks, distribution

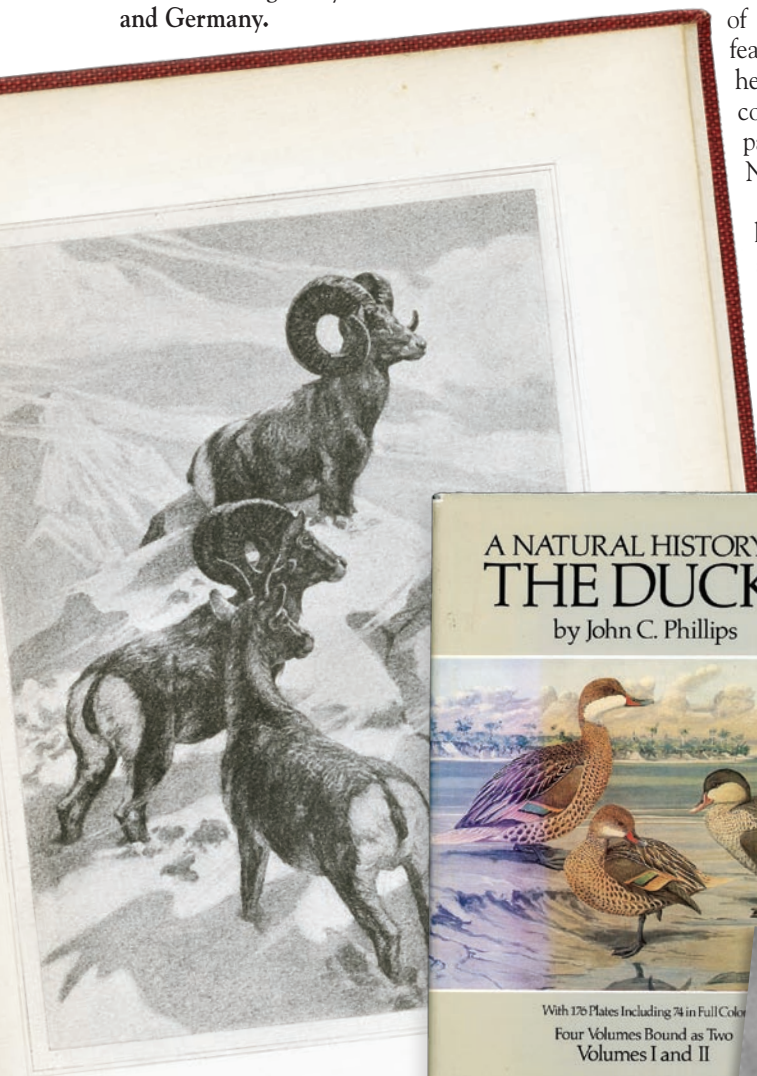
Selected books by John C. Phillips

- Boyhood Journals, 1887-92 (1915)*
- A Natural History of the Ducks, 4 volumes (1922-26)*
- A Sportsman's Scrapbook (1928)*
- American Game Mammals and Birds (1930)*
- A Sportsman's Second Scrapbook (1933)*

maps and an extensive bibliography covering all species of ducks encountered in the world. It is probably the most authoritative work ever written on the subject and reflects his great interest in natural resources that he regarded as a heritage to be carefully protected for future generations.

Dr. Phillips was a member of several prominent conservation organizations. Of special interest, in 1919 he was elected a member of the Boone and Crockett Club where he served as vice president from 1928-32. He was a member of the Editorial and Historical Committee for nearly a decade. During this time, he published *American Game Mammals and Birds*, a *Catalog of Books 1582-1925*, one of the few books published "With the Approval of the Boone and Crockett Club."

On November 14, 1938, Dr. Phillips was grouse hunting in New Hampshire with a friend. Just as his dog came to a point, he suffered a fatal heart attack. It was a fitting ending to a life of service and a great love of the outdoors. ■



A NATURAL HISTORY OF THE DUCKS

by John C. Phillips

With 176 Plates Including 74 in Full Color
Four Volumes Bound as Two
Volumes I and II

LEFT: Mountain Sheep from *A Sportsman's Scrapbook*. ABOVE: A color plate of falcated teal from *A Natural History of The Ducks*. NEAR LEFT: One of the only known published portraits of Phillips.