



## Falconry in the British Isles (1873)

*Francis Henry Salvin*

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## **Falconry in the British Isles (1873)** Francis Henry Salvin

SALVIN, FRANCIS HENRY (1817–1904), writer on falconry and cormorant-fishing, born at Croxdale Hall. An early love of hawking was stimulated by an acquaintance with John Tong, assistant falconer to Col. Thomas Thornton.

In 1843 Salvin made a highly successful hawking tour with John Pells (employed by the hereditary grand falconer of England) through the north of England; and when quartered with his regiment at remote places in Ireland he used to fly falcons at rooks and magpies. Near Fermoy in 1857 he killed in four months eighty-four of these birds. He also for some years kept goshawks and made successful flights with them at mountain hares, rabbits and water-hens. He invented a portable bow-perch for these birds. He was a prominent member from 1870 of the old Hawking Club which met on the Wiltshire downs.

Salvin was also the first to revive successfully in England the old sport of fishing with cormorants. In 1849 he took with four birds in twenty-eight days some 1200 large fish at Drifffield, Kilney, and other places in the north of England.

Salvin, who was a frequent contributor to the 'Field,' collaborated in two works on falconry. The first, 'Falconry in the British Isles' ( 1873), written in conjunction with William Brodrick of Chudleigh, has been pronounced the best modern English work on the subject. The figures of hawks, drawn by Brodrick, are said to bear comparison with the work of Josef Wolf the animal painter.

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Originally published 1873; reformatted for the Kindle; may contain occasional imperfection; original spellings have been kept in place.

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