

knocks requiring more than ordinary exertion he broke off a piece and apparently had some difficulty in swallowing it, but in spite of his best efforts, which appeared to be directed in getting a smaller piece than the first, he was unable to get a second mouthful; and I wondered what he would then do. Without any hesitation, however, he took the object and flew a short distance to where some water trickled over the stones, and as he came nearer to me I saw that he had a biscuit, probably hardtack, or part of a lunch some person had thrown down the hill. He was then partly hidden from view by a projecting rock, and quietly moving along the walk to where I had full view of him I was astonished to see that he was standing in the water holding the biscuit under water with one foot and patiently waiting for it to soak. In a short time his biscuit was partly softened, and beginning around the edge he ate the softer parts. Thus he continued, and finished his meal with no other discomfort than wet feet. The last piece of biscuit he took in his bill broke into several pieces and fell into the water, but he did not lose any of it. Then looking around to see that he had taken all, he quietly flew towards his nest.

This observation was made with the aid of a strong field glass that brought the bird into such clear view that I could almost count the primaries in his wings, and when he came nearer to eat the biscuit I could see the water drop from his bill at each mouthful.

A.

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TO THE EDITOR OF THE OTTAWA NATURALIST.

Whilst engaged in some Fisheries matters in the month of month of May, 1903, I found some specimens of the American Smelt (*Osmerus mordax*) floating dead on the surface of the water of Lac des Isles, in the Gatineau District, P.Q. It is known that this species of fish exists land-locked in fresh water-lakes in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and in the State of Maine, but its occurrence in a lake so far away from the sea as Lac des Isles, is perhaps worthy of mention. The specimens are dwarfed and perhaps may be regarded as a sub-species: otherwise the external characters appear to agree with the ordinary form of *Osmerus mordax*.

A. H.