

that it dies in the fresh water after spawning. This impression may have arisen from the fact, that dead lampreys are often seen in the streams toward autumn. In August 1840, the writer, while trout fishing in the Nerepis, saw dead lampreys along that river for miles.

Mr. J. L. Price states to the writer, that the lamprey ascends the Miramichi, and all its principal tributaries, where numbers are frequently found dead toward autumn. He has often observed it, in August, evidently in a languishing condition, the head and throat greatly bloated, and the whole body covered with a white mucous secretion. Mr. Price has remarked one peculiarity of this fish, which distinguishes it from all other minor fish—when disturbed at the spawning season, it will pursue the intruder, however formidable, with great spirit, even beyond the bounds of the water.

The lamprey is usually of a bluish brown colour, mottled with dark olive green along the back; beneath, a uniform dull yellowish olive. The fore part of the body is round; the posterior part flattened. There are seven large branchial apertures back of each eye, passing backward in nearly a straight line, the first smallest. When the lamprey is unattached, the mouth is a longitudinal fissure; but when attached, it is circular, the lip forming a ring, furnished with hard horny teeth of a yellow colour, within.

This fish is believed to do much damage to mill dams built upon gravelly or sandy foundations, by working its way beneath the dam, through the sand and gravel, and occasioning leaks, which gradually undermine the dam and eventually lead to its destruction.

LeSueur, a French naturalist, in describing a lamprey from the Connecticut River, says the annular or ribbed appearance of the fish, is owing to the muscles, which are endowed with great strength, in order to enable it to burrow in the muddy sands of rivers, which it penetrates in a serpentine manner by means of its snout, the large lip performing the functions of a terrier.

The lamprey has been known to attain the length of 30 inches, with a girth of 6 inches. The writer has never known it to be eaten in New Brunswick, but in the United States and elsewhere, it is held in high estimation by epicures.

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