

huge sea-gulls. Nothing could exceed the soaring sweep and grace of these great wheeling birds. Others settled upon the surface of the water and, with head upstream, gradually drifted down with the swift current.

When swimming the wings are not closed tight upon the body, as in the case of the duck: but are raised up and form a plumed arch above the body. The head is thrown back somewhat and the neck curved so that the beak is directed diagonally downward. The bright yellow gular pouch could be readily seen through a field glass. The Indians cut off this pouch when they secure a pelican, and sewing two together they make a quaint but useful pocket for needles, &c. The beak, I observed, was moved continually from one side to the other, more especially to the left side, that is, towards the bank of the river, alongside which the birds were drifting. Whether they were driving the fish shorewards or not I could not make out: but they were evidently not feeding. The tip of the beak was merely dipped into the surface of the water as they gracefully floated down below the rapids to the mouth of the river. On reaching the river mouth, several miles below, they are said to fly up to their starting point and once more drift down again, repeating this procedure time after time. They are said to be expert at catching fish, chiefly the fine whitefish which ascend from Lake Winnipeg to the Grand Rapids for spawning purposes in September and October. Each fish, as soon as it is caught in the capacious beak, slides into the pouch and then slips down the throat at a single gulp.

The Indians in the locality charge the pelicans with having driven the whitefish out of the river: but if the fish have diminished in number it is not necessary to seek further for the cause than the action of the Indians themselves who, for years, have scooped the rapids with dip-nets, and have captured the parent fish in numbers when just about to spawn. There is no better