

specialised Crustacea. Professor F. M. Balfour says (Comp. Embryol, Vol. I., p. 487): "The free Copepoda are undoubtedly amongst the lowest forms of those Crustacea which are free or do not lead a parasitic existence. Although some features of their anatomy, such for instance as the frequent absence of a heart, may be put down to retrogressive development, yet from their retention of the median frontal eye, . . . their simple biramous swimming legs, and other characters, they may claim to be very primitive forms, which have diverged to no great extent from the main line of Crustacean development."

In a brief notice of the Paddle-nosed Sturgeon in Ontario (*Ottawa Naturalist*, October, 1899, Vol. xiii) I indicated what meaning the naturalist feels bound to attach to the local occurrence, in areas remote from one another, of any primitive or generalised type of animal. The same deep significance attaches to the Copepods and Amphipods referred to above.

Of the birds observed during the expedition Dr. Nansen himself writes conjointly with Dr. Collett, and the account is full of interest. Between 81 deg. and 83 deg. N. latitude there is an abundance of bird life. Oddly enough, young birds seem to prevail in these inhospitable regions. Vast numbers of certain species were noticed including the Little Auk (*Mergulus* or *Alle alle*, Linn.) and the Ringed Plover (*Ægialitis hiaticula*, Linn.). *Cepphus mandtii*, *Crymophilus fulicarius*, and *Pagophila eburnea*, the Ivory Gull, were also obtained, and one specimen of Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabinii*, Sabine). During the spring of 1894, it was on May 13th, when the "Fram" was moving towards the most northerly point in her drift through the ice, a gull was noticed, apparently *Pagophila eburnea*, and others were seen occasionally until Aug. 23rd, but after the lanes between the hummocks and the channels around the ship began to freeze, about the end of August, no more birds were seen for over eight months. Indeed, the first to appear the next year was noticed on May 14th. Readers of "Farthest North" will remember Nansen's references to the beautiful and rare Ross's Gull or the Roseate Gull (*Rhodotethia rosea*, Macgill), and for the first time a fully detailed description of the species is now published with exquisitely tinted illustrative plates. In the waters around Hirtenland, the four