

From 3.52 to 5.25 p.m. eighty-five birds flew outwards toward the rookeries. The movement had been well under way for some time and continued diminishingly for awhile after. Estimating that those counted represented a little less than half the birds frequenting the basin during the day, an ample allowance, I think, considering the comparatively regular habits of the birds, we have a total of 200 individuals regularly feeding in the mouth of the York river.

Another day I was passing on the river road at a point where an extensive view could be obtained of the cormorant-frequented water. With field glasses, I counted 100 birds in sight. As this view included the greater part of the area most densely populated by the birds it probably included at least half of their number, which agrees with the figure arrived at by the previous method of estimation, namely 200.

There are two other rivers in the immediate neighbourhood, the St. John and the Dartmouth, of like character to the York. Allowing an equal number of cormorants to the former and 300 to the latter would satisfactorily account for the remainder of the estimated 700 birds inhabiting the bay.

The food of the cormorant is practically entirely of fish. Probably a few crustaceans and molluscs are taken but in too small a number to be economically considered.

During our investigation, we collected some thirty cormorant stomachs. Though we did not weigh any of them, I should judge that the contents of a well filled one would average about a pound and a half. Assuming two full meals a day per individual would give for the Gaspé basin 600 pounds of fish consumed per day by cormorants, or, assuming that the birds remain in the estuary 5 months, from May through September, in constant numerical force, 45 tons per season. This is only a rough estimate as no special allowance is made for feeding the young or for the increase of fishing population when the young leave the nest and fish for themselves. But, as there is a general dispersing tendency among old and young of most species after breeding and before migration, basing our figures on a constant population for the whole season probably makes up for the deficiency. At any rate the estimate is close enough to show that should the cor-