

obvious reluctance of cormorants to cross land, and in the absence of other evidence, we consider that most, if not all, the cormorants seen about Gaspé are of the local population and not intrusives from other grounds.

Through the day practically all the cormorants, not brooding eggs or young, are found in the estuaries of the river mouths emptying into the bay. A few are occasionally seen on the waters of the outer harbour but they are only occasional in proportion to those regularly seen on the inner basin. Gaspé basin is the enlarged mouth of the York river separated from the waters of Gaspé bay by a narrow channel, a few hundred yards across. Within this narrow mouth it gradually widens to over a mile in width where, towards its head, it spreads over flat, marshy, island-filled shallows gradually narrowing to the river mouth proper some miles up. These wide tidal areas are just awash at low tide. At high tide they are covered by 2 or 3 feet of water. The bottom is mud well grown with eel grass. Along one side of the channel extends a long row of stout piles, retaining booms for the guidance of pulp logs, that are floated down stream during the freshets. Equally spaced along these piles are firm, stone-filled cribs to better withstand the pressure of flood and ice. In the morning as soon as the sun is well up the cormorants fly in through the narrow channel separating the basin from the bay, their numbers increasing until about nine o'clock when most of the birds are to be found fishing in the shallow water at the head of the basin. On first coming in they alight in the water, look about a minute, and then disappear with an easy gliding dive. They generally remain under the water for about a minute. If they have been successful in their fishing, their prey can be easily seen when they reappear. They catch a fish crossways and it takes a little manipulation and sundry jerks of the head to get it placed properly in the mouth; then there is an upward flirt of the bill and the fish is swallowed. A few gulps are given and the bird is ready to repeat the operation. When temporarily satisfied, the cormorants betake themselves to any near-by floating object or to the boom logs and piles lining the way. Sometimes every pile for half a mile or so acts as pedestal to an ebony black cormorant posing statuesquely on