

scattered grains of gunpowder on the snow near the foci from which they spread. They tumble into every slight depression, and as their movements are rather aimless they do not readily escape from such situations, and every little hollow in the snow is black with them. A friend tells me that he once saw them near the Deschenes Rapids in such quantities that they could have been scooped up in spoonfuls. Of course, as they spread out they become much more thinly scattered. Their progress is slow and apparently rather haphazard, and their distribution is influenced a good deal by the wind, but their general movement is always towards open spaces. A day or two of favorable weather enables them to spread over a large area of country. I have seen them extending to a distance of a half mile from the shore on the ice of the Ottawa River, and on an eight-mile walk on the 26th March, 1914, they were found scattered everywhere over fields, clearings, beaver-meadows and lake.

The object of these migrations is not very apparent, and there is no doubt that the vast majority of the migrants perish in the snow before reaching any goal; but possibly inter-breeding is thus prevented and the racial benefit so derived more than counterbalances the immense destruction of individuals.

On the 24th April, 1914, by which date the snow had all gone, I found large numbers of *A. nivicola* under chips in a damp place on the shore of Chats Lake. The insects were gathered in masses, and to the naked eye, looked like patches of dark blue powder. I collected some in a vial, loosely filled with damp moss, and on the 27th, they laid from seventy-five to one hundred tiny, spherical, yellowish, eggs in lots of fifteen or twenty, something like bunches of grape. These hatched out on the 9th May, an incubation period of twelve days. The young emerged perfect, (none of the Collembola undergo any metamorphosis), but instead of the blue-black of the adult, they were yellowish-white in color with conspicuous dark eye spots. They were exceedingly active, and kept continually running and jumping about in their bottle. The adults all died about this time and the young survived them only a few days. *A. nivicola* disappears from its winter haunts during the summer, and is very hard to find between May and November, but this is not surprising, as the insect is so small that unless it occurs in very large numbers, it is difficult to discover without the white background of the snow to betray it.